

# Disability Now

## This month

**7 TRAINING**  
Vision of the future

**8 LETTERS**  
More sports funding

**9 INDEPENDENT LIVING**  
The second chapter

**11-13 NAIDEX**  
News from the Palace

**14 PERSON TO PERSON**  
Claiming your due

**14 PROFILE**  
Allan Sutherland

**15 FASHION**  
Undie-finably stylish

**16-17 ARTS**  
Duff film, disappointing book, great sculptures

**19-23 CLASSIFIEDS**



Why are MP Emma Nicholson, wheelchair user Brian Anderson and Gerry Dale of Medici Rehab toasting each other on the *Does He Take Sugar?* stand at Naidex? See page 11.

GRAHAM BOOL

## Poll tax payers still face uncertainty

Government changes in the community charge (poll tax) have left some disabled people better off but others uncertain about the future.

The first change, announced last month, is that people with Alzheimer's disease will be exempt from the poll tax after all (DN August). This could benefit around 160,000 people.

The announcement was welcomed by the Alzheimer's Disease Society. A spokesman said: "We have been campaigning hard for those suffering from Alzheimer's to be exempt. We are still awaiting detailed information about how it's going to be implemented."

"The Department of the Environment is working on a wider definition of severe mental impairment at the moment to include other degenerative conditions."

People with Alzheimer's disease are already paying the poll tax in Scotland. The Scottish Office does not have the power to make the change retrospective and repay these people.

A spokeswoman said that regulations to make the change effective would happen as quickly as possible but she could not give a date.

The second change, announced at the Conservative party conference and in the House of Lords last month, is that disabled people who were not previously rate payers will not pay more than £3 per week, £156 per year, in the first year of the poll tax.

David Hunt, Minister of State for the Environment, said in Blackpool: "We are going to single out pensioners and the disabled for special treatment, whether they pay rates or not."

The Government is doing so in the form of transitional relief, paid for by the Exchequer.

The £3 per week limit will only apply to disabled people who have never paid rates - people

*Continued on page 2*

## Historic decision by GLAD

The Greater London Association for Disabled People, with 68 member groups, has voted unanimously to make itself an organisation of disabled people with at least 75 per cent of its 24-member executive committee made up of disabled people by 1992.

The working party which drew up the proposition will consider increasing that number to 100 per cent.

It has already set a five year limit within which GLAD's staff must be 75 per cent disabled, including the director yet to be appointed, and it must now define associate membership and produce a new structure for GLAD within six months.

Chairman Colin Siegruhn welcomed the decision taken at the AGM in September. "It is momentous and very exciting."

"Of all the issues about today the most important is the participation of disabled people," he told the meeting. "We felt

*Continued on page 4*

## Family respite care gets co-ordinated

In response to massive demand from parents, carers, and disabled people, a new association has been formed to help provide respite care across the country.

Eighty-five per cent of severely disabled people are cared for by families, and this group's most frequent request is for short term respite care. The National Association For Family Based Respite Care will co-ordinate such schemes, bringing users and carers together.

About 280 schemes with 3,000 users are already in operation. The new Association will establish codes of practice, provide a central source of information and encourage new schemes.

"Parents want to know that respite help is caring, competent and won't be emotionally detrimental to their child," said Tom Clarke MP at the launch.

"Respite carers need recognition from the Department of Social Services as foster-parents," he said. They are not entitled to tax and insurance concessions, de-



Respite carer Marjory Leach with Heather Crolla.

spite (along with parents) saving the Treasury "billions of pounds a year".

*Continued on page 2*

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### Poll tax changes

*Continued from page 1*

who have moved into the community from residential care and those living with their parents.

Disabled ratepayers, in line with the rest of the public, will not be more than £3 per week worse off *ie* the difference between previous rates bills and their first poll tax bill will not be more than £3.

All of this is conditional on local authorities staying within Government spending guidelines. If they go above set limits, the full amount of the excess will be met by local poll tax payers.

This financial year, 354 councils have spent above Government-approved levels; only 43 have spent at or below them.

Martin Pagel, general secretary of the British Council of Organisations of Disabled People, said the Council opposes disabled people being treated as special cases.

"The poll tax is unfair and the Government has recognised this in part by this measure but in a very tokenistic way. We need to question generalised statements and we need to know figures."

A spokesman for the Department of the Environment could not say how many disabled people will benefit. "We haven't set down the regulations yet."

He did say that disabled people who have never been rate payers will have to register the fact with their local council.

David Blunkett, Labour's



**Money spinner:** some of the 4,500 entrants in the 8th Windsor half-marathon last month, well on their way to raising £50,000. The race was sponsored by the building industry in aid of The Spastics Society. Bob Treadwell and Tania Ball were the winners with times of 1 hour 8 mins 38 secs and 1 hour 20 mins 35 secs respectively. Two people with cp were among those who finished the course without help.

BERKS & BUCKS OBSERVER

spokesman on the poll tax, said: "Only a small number of local authorities will actually spend at the limit the Government has set, so the claim of £3 is misleading. Most people will pay above that."

"All these arrangements smack of political gerrymandering. The relief conveniently ends after the next election."

The Spastics Society has been campaigning for extra relief. It was concerned that disabled people might be forced into residential care because of the financial

burden of the poll tax.

Brian Lamb, campaigns and parliamentary officer, said: "We welcome the transitional relief but there is still a question mark over what is going to happen to disabled people when it runs out."

"As transitional relief will wind down over the following two years, all it will do is give disabled people a small breathing space."

*A revised Poll Tax Guide is free from The Campaigns and Parliamentary Unit, tel: 01-636 5020.*

## Birthday tribute for "intellectual anarchist"

Pioneer in special needs education, Professor Stanley Segal, celebrated his 70th birthday last month.

As teacher, writer, conference organiser and academic, Stanley Segal has spent over 40 years putting the needs of physically and mentally disabled people on the educational map, both in Britain and worldwide.

He advocated "parents as partners" long before the Warnock Report made that idea acceptable, and he was a driving force behind the Education Acts of 1970 and 1981.

"Perhaps the most important of all his activities has been that of awakening and mobilising public opinion on behalf of handicapped children and their families," said Dr Brian Strat-

ford of Nottingham University's School of Education.

His best known book, *No child is ineducable*, earned him the title of "intellectual anarchist" from one academic – someone who habitually challenges conventional wisdom.

He is still at it. His latest idea is to turn the "normal curve" of intellectual ability on its head, producing a "wine glass" shape where people with disabilities converge in the "stem".

"This graph," he says, "suggests more strikingly the need for multi-professional cooperation if the indivisible individual who happens to be multi-handicapped is to have the coordinated service he or she requires." He is planning a conference.

### Respite care

*Continued from page 1*

Association chair Peggy Maxwell saw the schemes helping disabled people to make new friends, widen their experience, improve their quality of life and learn new skills.

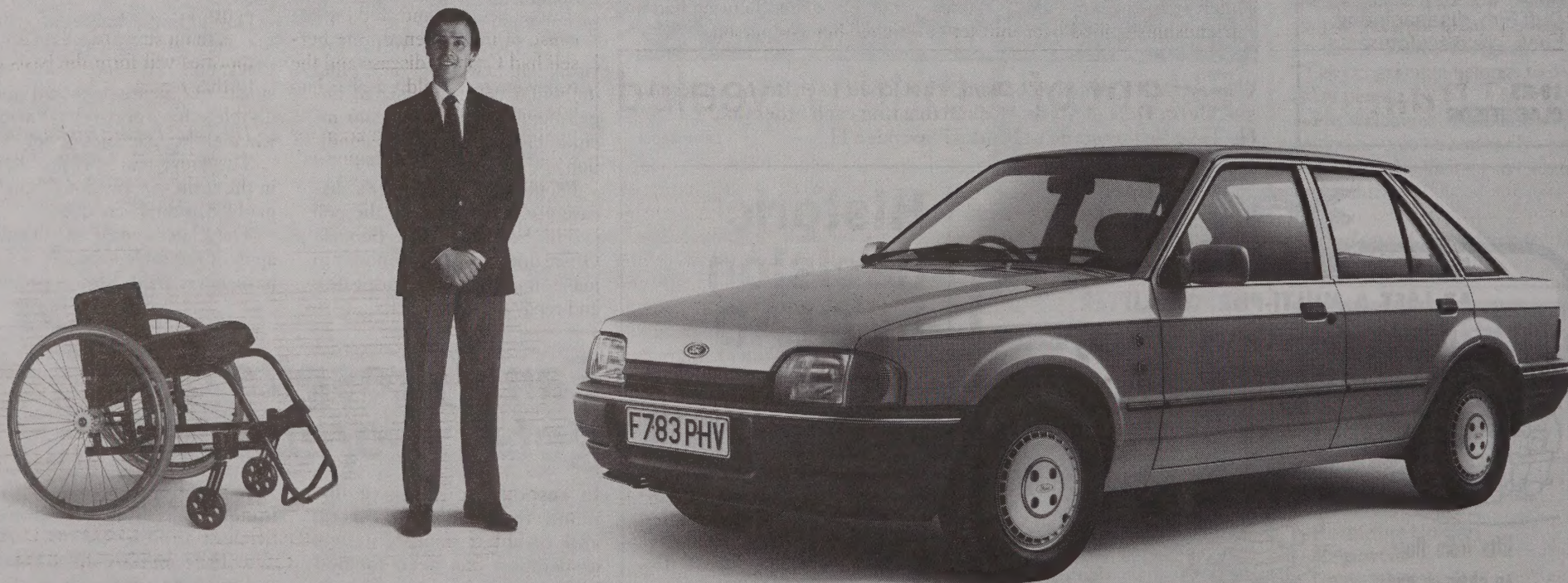
Cathy Murphy, meanwhile, who has a disabled child, said: "It is very important that this is a service. We don't have to feel grateful, although of course we do. Charity is a hard pill to swallow."

She described the pressure of caring for her son as "astrono-

mical", but added that respite care had saved her sanity on numerous occasions.

Frank Arbour of Manchester Social Services said: "Many schemes falter because benefits change so frequently that it's difficult to make long term plans." He also talked of problems obtaining funding for schemes involving disabled adults.

*Contact the National Association For Family Based Respite Care, Norah Fry Research Centre, 32 Tyndall's Park Road, Bristol BS8 1PY, tel: (0272) 238566.*



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# Parents voice hopes and fears

Richard Bowen reports

Parents of young people with mental and multiple disabilities had a chance to air their hopes and fears about the future when some 300 parents, social workers, teachers and administrators met in Liverpool in September at a conference organised by Barnardo's.

They got a sympathetic response from the president of Barnardo's, HRH The Princess of Wales, who joined in the parents' forum, and some concrete examples from the USA of how people with mental disabilities are being integrated into mainstream schools, living in the community and holding down jobs.

The conference was part of the "If you let me" campaign launched by Barnardo's in May, which revealed how patchy resources have resulted in lack of sheltered accommodation, family support groups, further education and employment training, or day centres offering constructive activities for those who cannot work.

Princess Diana voiced the particular fear of parents: what will happen to their children when they are not there to cope. "The fear is that your child's future may be in a bleak institution and I realise you know that given a chance your son or daughter could have a more secure future."

What can be achieved was brought home by guest speaker Bob Perske, who's latest book, *Circles of Friends*, found how important genuine friendships were



Princess Diana also visited a deaf school in Liverpool LIVERPOOL POST

in helping people with mental handicaps to integrate into the community.

He argued that co-ops, now emerging in America, were viable, cost-effective alternatives to institutional care for some people. Handicapped members could be looked after by their able-bodied housemates in a family atmosphere.

He produced cases of people with mental disabilities holding down full and part-time jobs in catering, gardening and park-keeping. Some became so accomplished that they could do their jobs unsupervised. Work friendships spilled over into lei-

sure time.

Two parents reported their experiences.

Dorothy Klemm from Chorley, Lancashire, told of the negative treatment her son, Mathew, had received at nursery schools. It was only at a school for autistic children that he began to thrive. Now he is at a residential school run by Barnardo's.

Pat Nelson, from Liverpool, fosters a mentally handicapped boy and grown-up twins who have Down's Syndrome. She spoke of the high quality of life enjoyed by the twins and just how much bringing them up had enriched her as a person.

## Job training

Training with Care, a new Employment Training Centre run by The Spastics Society in Weston-Super-Mare, was officially opened in October by Patrick Nicholls, Parliamentary Under Secretary of Employment.

He said the Government was keen to support the scheme because "it avoids the ghettoisation of disabled people. And if you're a spastic you need more help. They simply cannot help themselves."

Of the 25 trainees, aged 20 to 55, who have so far used the centre, 16 have found full-time employment. Forty-eight people are on the scheme now.

About 25 per cent of them have special needs, as against 12 per cent in most centres. "We are aiming at full integration," said manager David O'Connell.

All costs are met under the Government's Employment Training Scheme, including staff seconded from The Spastics Society. Extra money is raised from employers' placement fees.

The centre has areas for clerical training and care work, a library, reading room, and three training rooms. Simon Gilbert, 19, was working on a series of computer graphics: "You have to select a typeface and enlargement size, then print out the design," he said. On the wall were twelve designs he had processed.

## Extent of arthritis revealed

A survey into how arthritis affects a person's quality of life has come up with some startling results.

Based on 529 questionnaires completed by members of the charity Arthritis Care, the survey showed that 97 per cent of the members had experienced significant pain during the previous week. Nearly half had experienced side-effects from drugs severe enough for their doctors to change their medication.

Nearly half were unable to use public transport and 40 per cent were unable, or had difficulty, in walking 50 yards.

Arthritis is the major cause of disability in the UK, affecting 20 million people, and there is no cure. Children and young people as well as adults can get the disease and an estimated one in four people develop it at some point.

Nearly a quarter of the people who responded to the survey, and who were on medication for life, paid for their own prescriptions and 32 per cent had also paid for complementary medicines.

But a quarter of the participants who received a state benefit said they were worse off since the social security changes of April 1988. One woman said: "I mourn the passing of my career and my enforced lack of employment. The prospect of years spent in the financial desert of state support and ever-increasing

poverty is horrifying."

The survey results were published to coincide with Arthritis Care Week in September.

Arthritis Care is now calling on the Government, industry and society to give serious consideration to recommendations it thinks will improve life for people with arthritis:

- the Department of Health should fund research to evaluate complementary medicines and treatments and those found to be effective should be available under the NHS
- People with chronic arthritis should get free drugs and there should be a basic allowance for people with disabilities which recognises the increased costs arising from disabilities
- Mobility allowance and travel concessions should recognise the needs of people with arthritis, whose mobility problems are not always visible
- Since almost half the respondents could not open, or had difficulty opening, cartons and packets, manufacturers should consult people with arthritis about packaging.

*Arthritis: the painful challenge, Arthritis Care, 5 Grosvenor Crescent, London SW1X 7ER, enclose 37p SAE. Also, information for people with arthritis, a new booklet, enclose 15p SAE.*

## Verdict on first year of Social Fund: harsh and unfair

An analysis of the first year of the Social Fund contains damning evidence of its effects on disabled people and their families.

The report, by the Social Security Research Consortium for the Association of County Councils, found that the Social Fund is increasing existing inequalities among disabled people and putting Department of Social Security priorities before the needs of claimants.

The research was based on 328 cases in eight social services departments.

A quarter of the clients monitored had disabilities and a third were affected by the disability of at least one household member. But these figures are an underestimate, says the report, because no-one outside the immediate family was included.

Three quarters of disabled people applying to the social fund applied for a "community care" grant. Less than a third got the full amount they asked for and nearly a third had their application rejected altogether or were offered a loan.

The report says that the type of disability seem to influence the outcome: physical disability and dementia were most likely to attract a grant; addiction and mental illness were the least likely, particularly if a young parent was involved.

It quotes the case of a 24-year-old lone parent with four children. She needed to replace mattresses, bedding and clothing because of incontinence. She herself had Crohn's disease and the two youngest children also had bowel problems.

She finally received a grant for a third of the amount requested, allegedly because there was insufficient money in the local office budget. It was actually 53

per cent underspent on its budget at the time.

The report also says that a claimant's social status is all-important. Pensioners were twice as likely to get a grant than younger sick and disabled people.

But the report points out: "The OPCS national survey of disabled people's financial circumstances found that younger people with disabilities were relatively more disadvantaged than those over retirement age."

"The social fund may be compounding existing inequalities among disabled people."

Whether people got grants also seemed to depend on the type of benefit they received. Disabled claimants who didn't get disability premiums were given low priority.

"The impression from this pilot monitoring is that social fund grants are very hard to obtain," the report says. "Often the rejections seem very harsh."

It quotes a woman with a mobility handicap who was raped. The police took all her clothes and were likely to keep them for up to a year. She needed boots to be able to walk and did not want to have to accept clothes back that she was raped in.

She was neither eligible for a grant nor a crisis loan because of DSS concern that this would bring her into debt. She was loaned £25 to buy boots.

At the end of its first year, a third of the Social Fund was unspent.

A main study based on 23 authorities will form the basis of a further report.

*The Social Fund: a critical analysis, Association of County Councils Publications, Eaton House, 66a Eaton Square, London SW1. £5.95.*

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## His mission accomplished



Steven Croft (centre front) flanked by his marathon helpers Steve Cotton (front left) and Richard Willis (front right) after completing the 900 mile wheelchair trip from John O' Groats to Lands End. Steven, 25, has so far raised over £3,000 to send disabled children to Disneyland.

## Alzheimer's breakthrough

New research suggests that a cure for Alzheimer's disease could be on its way, based on taking skin-tests.

Protein found in the brains of people with Alzheimer's can also be traced in their skin, according to new research from the US.

One in 20 people over 65 have the disease, which may be preventable if the protein, amyloid A4, can be kept from depositing in the brain. Alzheimer's disease causes memory loss, confusion

and eventual death.

In the US study, eight out of 11 Alzheimer's patients had the abnormal protein in tissues other than the brain, as against only three out of 26 elderly people without the disease.

Scientists have still to discover whether the protein is produced in different parts of the body, or carried by the blood stream.

*\*Alzheimer's week is 20-25 November.*

## New Arts Council report "has teeth"

A new action plan published by the Arts Council carries the implied threat that unless arts organisations carry out proposals to improve access, employment and artistic opportunities for disabled people, their future funding may be in jeopardy.

"This really does have teeth," Sir Brian Rix said of the plan launched last month. He is chair of the Arts Council's arts and disability monitoring committee.

If arts organisations have not implemented the first part of the plan by October 1990, he said some form of sanctions might have to be adopted.

This first part has concrete suggestions such as:

- recruiting disabled people into management or on to committees or staff
- including access information

in all publicity material and sending that material to disabled people's organisations

● offering ticket concessions to unemployed disabled people, those who have to purchase a more expensive seat because of their disability and those who have to be accompanied.

Organisations are called on to think about other practical steps such as surveying access, fund raising to make improvements, providing coherent interpretation services and developing outreach work.

To improve attitudes towards disabled people, says the plan, organisations should employ disabled people in all areas of their work, promote work by disabled artists and present disabled people's experiences creatively.

Arts and disability officer for

the Arts Council, Linda Moss, said that within the present financial constraints arts organisations face, the plan was not a total answer but a significant step. "These are precise directions without drastic financial implications."

The action plan follows a Code of Practice 1985, which was not taken up by organisations getting Arts Council funding or the autonomous Regional Arts Associations (RAAs).

The Arts Council gives regular financial support to about 90 organisations, plus grants to hundreds of projects. The RAAs fund about 7,000 clients.

*Arts and Disability Action Plan, Arts Council, 105 Piccadilly, London W1V 0AU, tel: 01-629 9495. Available on tape.*

### Historic decision taken by GLAD

*Continued from page 2*

borough associations should take the lead and have power in GLAD."

Some representatives thought the timescale was too long. Lucille Lyden of the Southwark Disablement Association wanted a 100 per cent disabled Executive in less than three years.

But Colin Siegruhn reminded her that the constitution had set a three year cycle and "it would be a major disruption to change that".

"I feel impatient about three years and a lot of my friends and colleagues will be as well," said Adrian Woelz, chair of the Croydon Disablement Association.

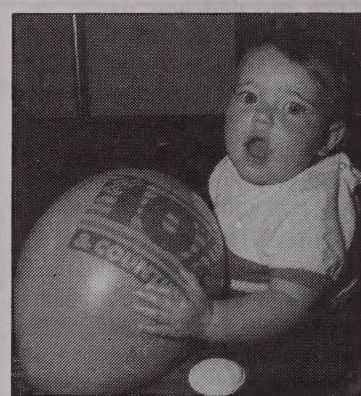
"In January we made constitutional changes almost overnight and from being run mainly by able-bodied people the entire executive committee became people with disabilities."

Pam Moffat, chair of Haringey Disability Association, thinks GLAD is moving too fast and too hard.

Some groups such as those for Alzheimer's disease or Huntington's Chorea would find it difficult to produce disabled representatives, she said. "There's got to be careful understanding of people like that. The vociferous people in wheelchairs are in a massive minority."

The new Executive Committee has 68 per cent people with disabilities.

Beverley Holland of Southwark Disablement Association and Marjorie Grindrod of Croydon Disablement Association were elected vice-chairs.



### Babies' playday

Around 100 London children with disabilities enjoyed a fun-filled day last month. It was part of a week-long programme to celebrate the achievements of adults and children with disabilities, held by Ealing Council.

Entertainments included inflatable and soft-play areas, story-telling and a Punch and Judy show.

## Building homes for the disabled.

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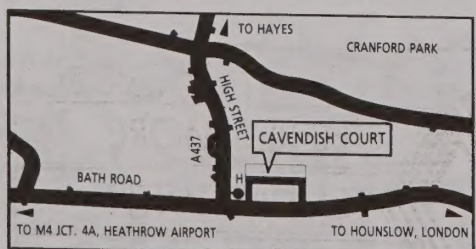
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# Samaritans and RNID in textphone link-up

The Royal National Institute for the Deaf and the Samaritans have linked up to provide a textphone line for deaf people who need emotional support.

RNID Director of Community Services Doug Alker, who is deaf, said: "There are two important principles behind the development. First, equal access for deaf people to the telephone system - at the moment this is very minimal. Secondly, deaf people have the same emotional

problems as everyone else, so it's important to have support. Often deaf people have to talk through an interpreter or social worker. It makes talking about personal problems very awkward.

"We know there are quite a few deaf suicides every year, especially when people become deaf. You can imagine it's a very traumatic event. So this could be an important way for people to come to terms with deafness."

Samaritans in Bolton (Lancashire) and Putney (London)

have been trained to use the Qwerty Textphone system. "There will be new skills and sensitivity demanded of us," said Simon Armson, Samaritans' General Secretary.

Elizabeth Quinn, the deaf star of *Children of a Lesser God*, made the first textphone call to Bolton, typing "I'm delighted to open this textphone line for deaf people who have been denied access until now."

There are an estimated 3,000 textphone users in the UK, but Mike Whitlam of the RNID estimates that there are hundreds of thousands of potential users.

The Institute is negotiating with British Telecom to reduce the price of textphone machines from their present £180. Reductions of 60 per cent on phone bills are promised for textphone users.

RNID, minicom 01-387 8033.

## IN BRIEF

### Rosy future for family

An experimental scheme provides short breaks for children with severe physical learning difficulties is to be permanent.

The City of Westminster scheme now wants prospective link families to move forward. At present eight children are linked with carers on a regular short-term basis as children are waiting for families.

The scheme aims to suit the needs of the child, parent and link family. So breaks vary from a few hours care to a fortnight holiday.

For details call Pauline L... 01-798 1450 or write to her at 4, 155 Westbourne Terrace, W2.

### ASBAH's new look leader

The Association for Spina and Hydrocephalus (ASBAH) has simultaneously taken on a new logo and a new president, Jeffrey Tate. Mr Tate, President of the Royal College of Physicians, commented: "This means a lot to me personally as I have spina bifida."



The Association launched its new corporate logo at its AGM in October. It symbolises the disabilities that ASBAH represents.

Contact ASBAH, 22 Woburn Place, London W1P 0EP, tel: 01-431 3724.

### Deaf van drive-in

The Breakthrough Trust is to remind DN readers of its London Mobile Unit - a van which has video, telephone, alarm equipment for hearing impaired people, plus advice, information and services. 10 per cent of Breakthrough Trust are deaf, including senior management. It offers the chair-accessible Unit to local authorities, organisations or individuals in Greater London, and will discuss details of visits in advance.

Contact the Breakthrough Trust, The Hall, Peyton Place, Greenwich, SE10 8RS, tel: 01-853 5611, tel: 01-853 2683, Telecom 01-853 005.

### Correction

Primrose House, which was featured in "The fight for a free DN July, does not receive payment for its students. The Spastics Society. For £450 per week: £200 from DHSS (made up of attendance allowance, etc) and £250 "up" from social services.

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DN11



ere is a new blue building  
nding proudly amidst the  
mplex of Loughborough  
iversity, Loughborough  
lege, and the College of Art.  
the RNIB's Vocational  
lege.  
Originally based in London, it  
ow the first college to offer  
cialist training in a  
instream setting for people  
h visual impairment.  
Students can enjoy the  
owship of the 12,000 strong  
dents' union, taking part in  
ates and general activities.  
But, more importantly, the  
lege offers integrated  
ication. Visually impaired  
dents can now take courses  
h as travel, tourism,  
guages, general science, "A"  
el maths and geography.  
There are three levels of entry:  
re-foundation course, a  
ndation course requiring  
dents to read Braille at 15 to  
words a minute, or a  
ational course where students  
ist read Braille at 46 words a  
nute and write it at 23 words a  
nute.

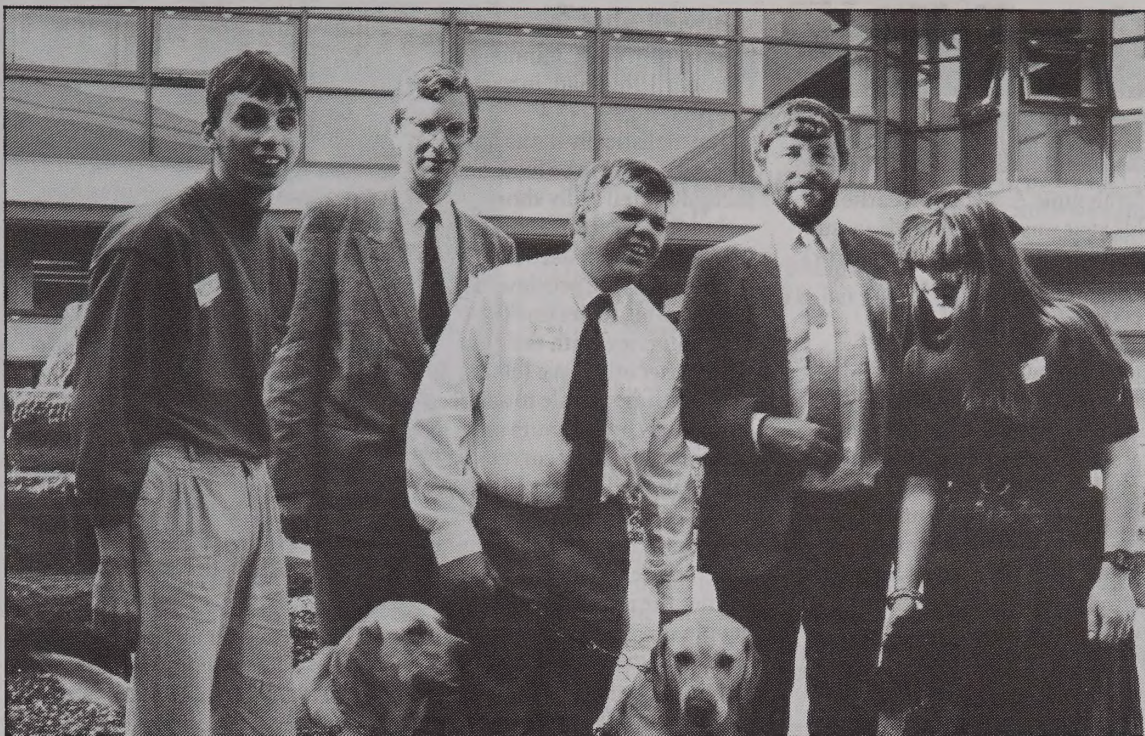
The college trains for open  
ployment, and there are many  
re opportunities for blind  
dents than when I trained 20  
rs ago.  
The principal, Kevin Connell,  
plaind that people go into all  
ds of office jobs – telephony  
d reception, general office and  
rical administration,  
retarial and shorthand and  
dio-typing, word processing,  
mputer terminal operating,  
ng a computer as a means of  
essing a remote data base and  
ious computer programming  
ses.  
If a person must lose their  
ht, now is the time.  
nthesised speech output can  
t a blind person on equal terms  
ny office environment.  
Talking computers,  
culators, Kurzweil Personal



in at her own Kurzweil Personal Reader: "It's a miracle".

eaders that can read normal  
nted text by simply placing it  
a glass plate, Braille  
mputers and retrieval systems,  
ake the blind person who uses  
aille equal to their sighted  
lleagues.

Classes are small and the  
aining given intensive.  
Close working relationships  
e formed during computer  
rogramme and telephony  
struction.  
Each telephone training  
bicle is split into two sections: a  
witchboard and a call simulator,  
intly developed by the RNIB  
nd Imperial College, London.  
he tutor sits at the simulator  
reating calls and on the opposite



Outside the college: from left, student Andrew Blackledge, director general of the RNIB Ian Bruce, student Paul Parker, MP David Blunkett and student Bernadette Tooke, plus "friendly dogs".

## A vision of the future

Lin Berwick visits the RNIB's new Vocational College

side of a sliding glass panel the  
student learns telephone  
technique as well as the  
mechanics of five different  
switchboards.

Sponsorship for one cubicle  
came from the National  
Westminster Bank, who fitted it  
out using banking terminology so  
that a student would be equipped  
to work in a bank.

Other cubicles simulate a  
hospital, an estate agent and a  
police station.

The student uses a speech  
output computerised directory  
for retrieving telephone  
numbers.

In the access technology  
department I met Robert  
Goodwyn.

Formerly employed at Braille



Integrated principals: Kevin Connell (left) and Harold Wilkinson.

have a happy and contented and  
fulfilling life.

That means gaining  
independence and having the  
dignity and the access to  
employment that other people  
automatically expect."

He went on: "We are disabled  
to the degree that the community  
and our nation make us  
disabled."

Staff, students and visitors  
were most impressed with the  
architecture of the new building.

Everywhere there are  
corridors wide enough for  
passing wheelchairs, high  
intensity light, non-reflective

wall coverings and plenty of  
natural light. (Good lighting  
without glare is essential for  
people with certain eye  
conditions.)

A well-stocked library has  
Braille, tapes, large print and  
talking books as well as ordinary  
books that can be used on the  
Kurzweil reader or by sighted  
staff.

Sculptures and paintings give  
a sense of warmth about the place  
– the result of collaboration  
between the RNIB and the art  
college.

A water fountain and plenty of  
plants (not always real) plus a lot  
of friendly guide dogs make for  
an extremely happy atmosphere.

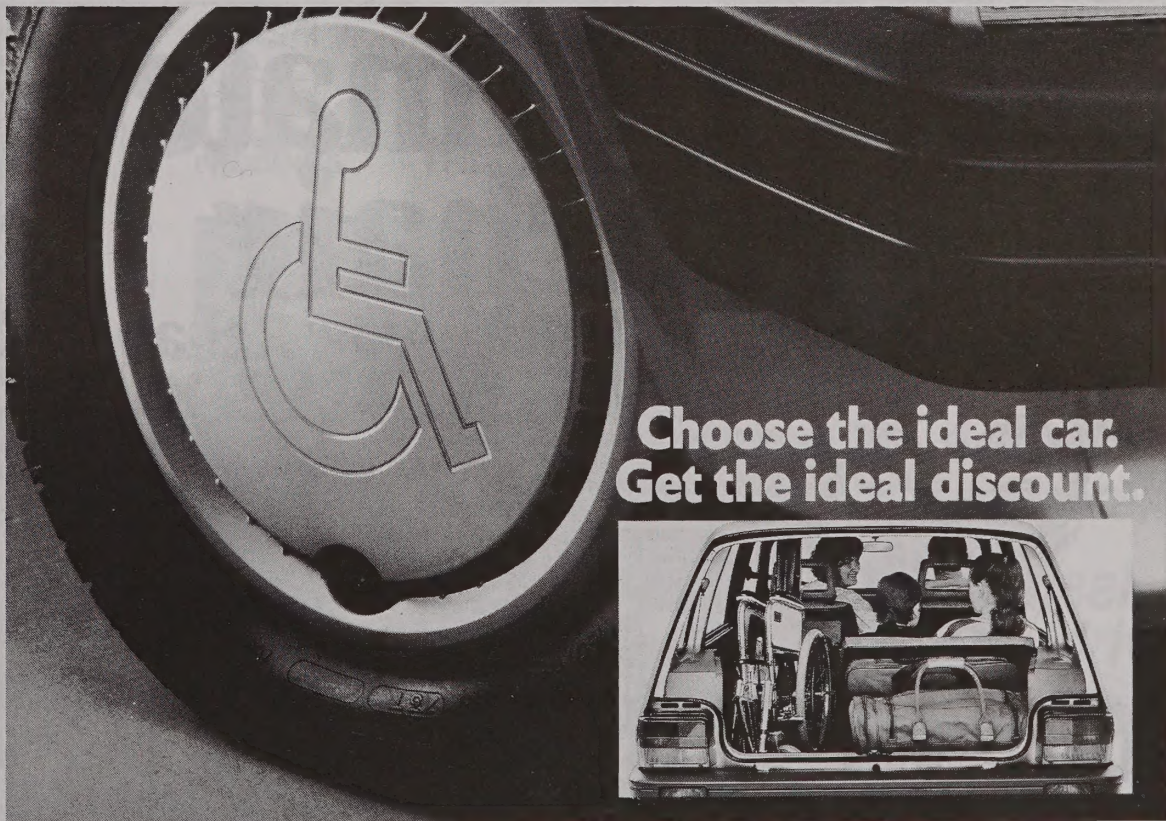
Pembridge Hall, about half a  
mile away, offers rooms for 22 of  
the students. (The others have to  
find accommodation in the  
town.)

The room I stayed in was  
adequately furnished, and there  
were comfortable TV lounges.  
Students are encouraged to use  
one of the four well-equipped  
kitchens to prepare their own  
meals or they can eat in the  
college refectory.

The college is not just for  
school leavers; it takes people of  
all ages providing they are aiming  
for commercial employment.

Nowhere is there a whiff of  
institutionalism. For the first  
time a visually impaired person  
has the opportunity to be socially  
and commercially integrated. It is  
well worth the £4 million  
invested by the RNIB.

To apply for courses, contact the  
Blind Person's Resettlement Officer  
through your local job centre.  
Further information from the  
Employment Department of the  
RNIB, 224 Great Portland Street,  
London W1, tel: 01-388 1266.



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DN11



# Letters to the Editor

Disability Now, 12 Park Crescent, London W1N 4EQ

## Government should evaluate cost-effectiveness of sport

In *Disability Now* (September), you reported the launch of *Building on Ability*, the report of the Minister for Sport's review group on sport for people who are disabled.

You quote me as saying, "There is a great deal of dissatisfaction with the present levels of funding." I would wish to expand on this aspect of the report.

Several of our recommendations have significant funding implications for the Sports Council: regional officers to coordinate and develop sport for people with disabilities; more resources to be earmarked for sport for disabled people; governing bodies to prepare a strategy which must be included in their plans for grant-aid.

Colin Moynihan accepts that too little money reaches disabled athletes. So we were disappointed that the report did not include stronger recommendations to the Government to increase funding to the Sports Council so that the recommendations could be fully implemented.

All the organisations concerned regretted the absence of dependable core funding which would enable them to plan from a secure base instead of depending on charitable donations and sponsorship.

The £500,000 given to the recently formed British

Paralympic Association earlier this year was a windfall (the result of a Government statistical error) not the result of studied recognition of a vital need followed by a budgetted commitment.

Successive governments have failed to recognise the immense value and importance of sport for people who are disabled.

The present Government, so concerned with value for money and measurable returns, should commission a research project to evaluate the benefit of sport in terms of health and the consequent economic results and relate them to other demands upon community resources and support services.

The benefits in terms of activity, fulfilment and human happiness are self-evident.

**Ivor Mitchell**  
(member of the review group)  
Lichfield, Staffs

## Difference of opinion

*Same Difference* (Channel 4, 2 October) included Kyre Park in its programme on The Spastics Society.

I think the programme was wrongly made. It is true that Kyre is closing down and helping us to move into the community. Two years ago the Society gave us the money for this and we were all happy.

When *Same Difference* filmed Kyre, they just included the parts they wanted to.

**Karen Jeffries**

Kyre Park  
Tenbury Wells, Worcs

## ...and another

*Same Difference* (Channel 4, 2 October 1989) had, in my view, many failings.

Journalistically it was poor – lacking cohesion or focus; factually it fell sadly short.

Indeed, it seemed so inaccurate and biased that it was decided, having previewed the programme, to decline the offer of an interview with the Society's Chief Executive. We felt that it would be impossible to address adequately, in a minute or so, all the points needing correction or explanation. This decision was not taken lightly.

Perhaps most important, the programme did little to reflect or further the interests of disabled people.

Preoccupation with past, and little comment by current users of the Society's services totally devalued the programme.

It also raises the question "Why make it?", particularly as we gave them every help in doing so!

It is impossible here to itemise all the inaccuracies and distortions in the programme. However, I am happy to make available my detailed response to the programme's producer.

**Douglas Shapland**  
Chairman  
The Spastics Society

## Care attendant schemes

Your leading article on the problems encountered by Crossroads Care with funding (*DN* June) states that Crossroads is the only national voluntary organisation which offers a care attendant scheme in the home.

I would like to point out that the Leonard Cheshire Foundation has 27 family support services in the UK

providing a very similar service to Crossroads.

**Val Busby RGN**  
Torbay Family Support Service  
The Leonard Cheshire Foundation

"Crossroads is the only national voluntary organisation...offering a care attendance service in the home" – *Crossroads press release*. We have now heard that the *Spinal Injuries Association* has one, plus a video, We'd be lost without it, *SLA* members £13.50 (incl P&P); non-members £16.50 (incl p&P); £10 for hire. Contact Ray Elliott, tel: 01-444 2121 – Editor

## Architects and wheelchair design

The first letter on this page in June, about architects and wheelchairs, was directly above a Batricar ad for a scooter, proudly claiming that it climbs 5 inch kerbs.

This manufacturer is not alone in its claims and I am not disputing any of them. I have the latest model of one of these wheelchairs, though, and would like to pass on my impression to others.

While there's no argument about claims of climbing to 5 inches depending on the passenger's nerve, I've found, regrettably, that most kerbs are above 5 inches, so the kerb climbing wheelchair is quite limited.

My wheelchair cost £2,100 and would have hurt me considerably to buy – as it was, the RAFBF kindly paid for it. But I confess I was responsible for wasting the money. I ought to have checked better on kerb heights.

So I say to Mr Armstrong that perhaps a week spent in a

wheelchair might provide architects with *some* information, namely why kerbs need to be so universally, high.

**James Straughan**  
Hartlepool

## ...with more on kerbs...

As most wheelchairs are made for people to go outdoors, is there any reason why only a few are kerb climbers?

Surely it would save a lot of trouble if all wheelchairs were fitted with devices that made them kerb climbers.

**Mr P Reaney**  
Sheffield

## ...and batteries

In Ian Younger's very erudite and extensive page on wheelchair batteries (*DN* October) he mentioned a *DN* reader, Andre Carman, still using batteries fitted six years ago.

I am a member of the Guild of Experienced Motorists and in their magazine a product was mentioned that extends the life of batteries by up to ten years.

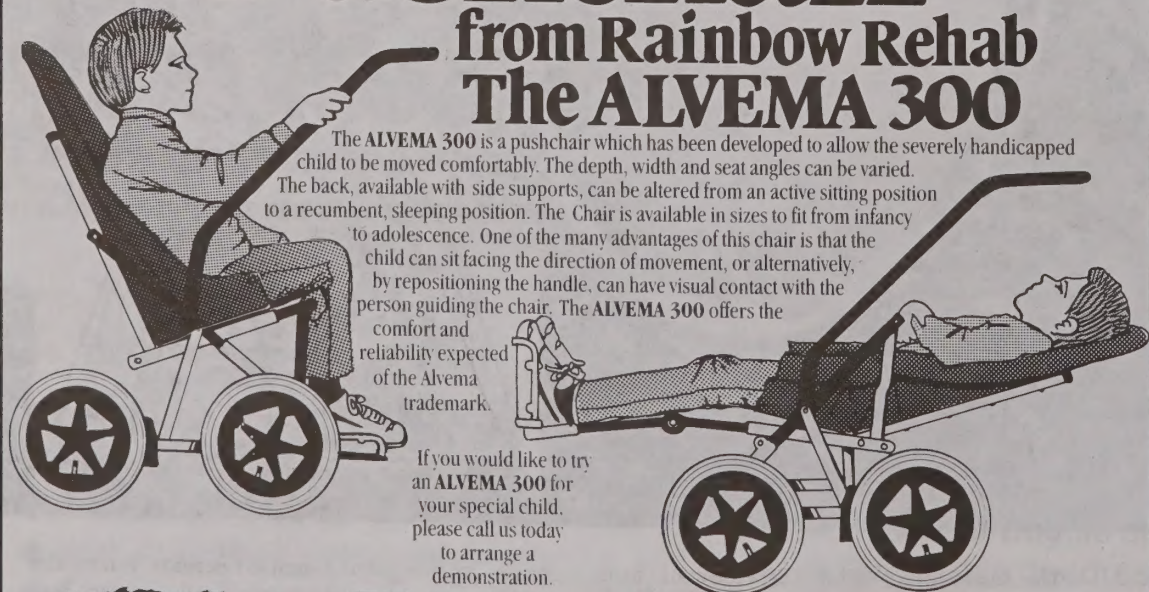
Bataid is available from car accessory outlets at £1.20. The tube contains 12 tablets and specifies initial dose of two tablets per cell, then one tablet per cell every three months for failing batteries.

**CH Mellows**  
Sheerness, Kent

*Ian Younger says Bataid is very useful and available from Halfords. For someone totally reliant on a wheelchair, though, he feels it is unwise to rely on it except in emergencies. The best insurance is the best batteries you can afford. The batteries article elicited a lot of letters including two which pointed out, correctly, that the picture was of a Meyra not a Wayfarer! Editor*

# The Ultimate Pushchair

from Rainbow Rehab  
**The ALVEMA 300**



The ALVEMA 300 is a pushchair which has been developed to allow the severely handicapped child to be moved comfortably. The depth, width and seat angles can be varied. The back, available with side supports, can be altered from an active sitting position to a recumbent, sleeping position. The Chair is available in sizes to fit from infancy to adolescence. One of the many advantages of this chair is that the child can sit facing the direction of movement, or alternatively, by repositioning the handle, can have visual contact with the person guiding the chair. The ALVEMA 300 offers the comfort and reliability expected of the Alvema trademark.

If you would like to try an ALVEMA 300 for your special child, please call us today to arrange a demonstration.



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## sic

### Nick knackers his knee

Minister for the Disabled Nick Scott MP temporarily entered into the spirit of his department this summer when he tore some knee tendons during a fall in San Francisco. He ended up recovering in a hotel with his leg in plaster.

How ironic, you might think. But wait for the best bit: he got the knock after tripping on a "curb cut" (wheelchair ramp)! Mr Scott cancelled his appointment with RADAR's George Wilson and was said to be recovering.

### Comatose of Cardiff

Talk about Leisure! On 13 April the City of Cardiff Leisure and Amenities Department wrote a press release about an open day at a local park. On 22 July it took place (presumably) with such excitements as 'Bonkers' magic from Eric and Elsie Black, Punch and Judy from Uncle Roger, and a hundred and one workshops.

On 11 September, a gap of nearly five months, the information popped through *DN*'s letterbox. The pigeon has been given a bed for the night and will begin its flying lessons next week.

### Sneaky samba

Twenty-nine men and women in wheelchairs who were performing the samba at the fifth Far East and South Pacific Regional Olympiad for Handicapped People in Japan received great applause from the mainly disabled audience.

Then, to the crowd's astonishment, 17 of them stood up and strolled out of the arena. When questioned, the organisers said they couldn't find enough wheelchair-using dancers, so some "healthy" people had been brought in.

"We should have announced that there were healthy people amongst those taking part," said organiser Masao Matsuo. "However, having healthy people sit in wheelchairs...is one way for them to understand the limitations of handicapped people."

### And finally...

– A woman revealed at the Labour conference that her GP told her to act "like a vegetable" in order to get the mobility allowance.

– The BBC has a department for equal opportunities but no budget to advertise for disabled employees.

**Stop press:** the BBC may be getting a budget soon.

David Nicholson





David and home help Jean Patel.

NEVILLE CHADWICK

## "I can switch Neighbours off!"

"I know people in homes who went in at the end of the 60s because they thought there was no alternative."

David Preston, 37, has been living in his own one-bedroomed flat in Leicester since June. He is blind and has cerebral palsy and apart from boarding school had always lived with his parents.

"My Dad is 60 and my Mum 57 and I wanted to stop the business of them looking after me before they *had* to stop."

He applied to Leicestershire Association for the Disabled for adapted accommodation and got a housing association flat. A director of the housing association is also head of the Association for the Disabled and gives it first refusal on adapted ground floor flats.

David lived in a test flat first for three weeks to assess the problems he would face and any support he would need.

All 15 tenants in David's block have disabilities and there is a



care staff member on duty 24 hours a day. The flats have a system of alarm cords to summon the care staff.

"The only way of calling the staff is the cord. If I fell over away from it, I would be in trouble." David would like a "bleeper" as well to wear around his neck.

The amount of time he spends at home varies because he works for the local radio station doing information on air for and about disabled people and also consultancy work for advertisers. Some weeks he works up to 50 hours, others as little as eight, but the average is about 30.

He lives on a mixture of income support and pay, 50 per cent of which is paid by Opportunities for the Disabled.

Housing benefit meets the rent. David pays 20 per cent of his general rates and all the water rates, plus his bills.

Although he lives alone, David says he gets a lot of support.

"My girlfriend showed me how to tell whether a yoghurt is out of date. You feel the lid – has it gone solid? And then shake it. If it fizzes, it has gone off."

He memorises the shape of boxes before putting them in the freezer. By feeling them he can tell whether they are fishfingers or beefburgers. He mainly cooks with a microwave or slow cooker. "I've cooked rabbit in the slow cooker. I put it all in when I go out and it's done when I come in."

At first, David had meals on wheels. "It was so awful that it put me off. Sausage, Smash, beans and steam pudding when the temperature was 90°. It's a great incentive to learn to cook."

He uses a wheelchair part of the time, so all the kitchen surfaces are at a reasonable height and the sink moves up and down. He has a home help four days a week who cleans and helps with his washing.

To furnish the flat, David got a "very substantial" community care grant from the Social Fund – £1,300. He made a list of the furniture he needed and then estimated its cost.

Now that he's established David says: "The advantage is that I'm able to be as independent as I want to be. I don't have to tell anyone when I go out. I can listen to what I want on the TV and I can switch *Neighbours* off."

He uses a local taxi service for transport and shops – a supermarket, off-licence, newsagent and hairdressers – are all nearby.

He knows able-bodied neighbours refer to his block of flats as "that cripples' home". There is an organised social life within the flats but only if residents want to take part.

David says the design of his flat is 95 per cent right. The 'phone socket is in a silly place and he would like buttons for the door entry in the living room as well as the hall, but mostly he's pleased.

One of the things he has found about living independently is how much more open he is to informal networks – getting lifts off friends for example. All in all, independent living is proving to be enjoyable.

# Declaration of independence

More experiences of community living. Geraldine Holden reports

## "It can work and it will work"

Three young people are helping to keep Gwen Marshall in her flat and local community.

Gwen, who lives in South London, is 53 and has multiple sclerosis and diabetes. Without Lewisham Council's Independent Living Scheme she would have to go into residential care.

Throughout 1986/7 Gwen was in and out of hospital but was determined she would go home. Then one of the ILS administrators told Gwen about the new scheme.

"I don't think the hospital thought I would cope at home and I thought I wouldn't be able to put up with 17 and 18 year olds coming to wash me. But it started in March 1988 with three lovely young people."

Gwen's first three helpers still keep in touch regularly. When she first came home Gwen was in bed and needed turning every two hours.

"When I was really down they were with me. You hear things about young people that are bad but you don't hear the good things about them."

The three volunteer helpers provide 24-hour cover on a rota basis. They have their own flats and Lewisham pays the rent and bills. They also get £40 a week and £12 clothing allowance at the beginning of each month.

Six other disabled people use the same scheme as Gwen. All of them interview and choose their own helpers.

"I've never had anyone leave me because we cannot get along," says Gwen. "People usually stay for a few months, before leaving to do other things, like nursing or going to college."

Roughly half the scheme is paid for by the Department of Social Security, with a top up from Lewisham social services. Gwen gets domestic assistance



Gwen at home with a neighbour (right) and former helper.

allowance from the DSS on top of her attendance allowance.

Domestic assistance has now been abolished and replaced by the Independent Living Fund. Other people in Gwen's position would not necessarily be able to get the same sort of help paid for.

Gwen's helpers start at 8.30am and get her breakfast and insulin. A nurse comes to give her a wash every other day. Otherwise the helpers do it.

Gwen does most of her own cooking and some cleaning. The

helpers do the rest. Gwen uses a wheelchair and there is a hoist in the bathroom and bedroom.

She feels the scheme is working very well for her and is vehemently against living anywhere else. "I remember once when I was in hospital, something had to be done in the flat. They said I could go into a home until it was done."

"I said not even for a day. You are your own person in your own home. In an institution you are a child. It costs them a lot to keep me in a home. I'm happy here and it's costing them less."

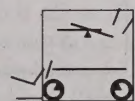
Each time new helpers start, Gwen gets certain things on a clear footing. "I tell them it's my flat and don't try to take that away from me. And there are times when I'm very moody and then I say just leave me alone, because no-one knows what I'm feeling."

Contacts with other people in the community come through friends visiting, her church and visits to a day centre. She used to be a keen wheelchair dancer. Her arms are no longer strong enough but she goes to watch.

For the first time, one of Gwen's current helpers is a man, Dominic, who is 20. Gwen was worried about it at first. "My helpers have to do intimate things for me each morning." But it seems to be working out.

Dominic said: "A lot of it is building a relationship. You have to build up a new role out of nothing, and stop it becoming like a mother/son relationship. We treat each other as equals."

"It can work and it will work," said Gwen. "It has to be two way."



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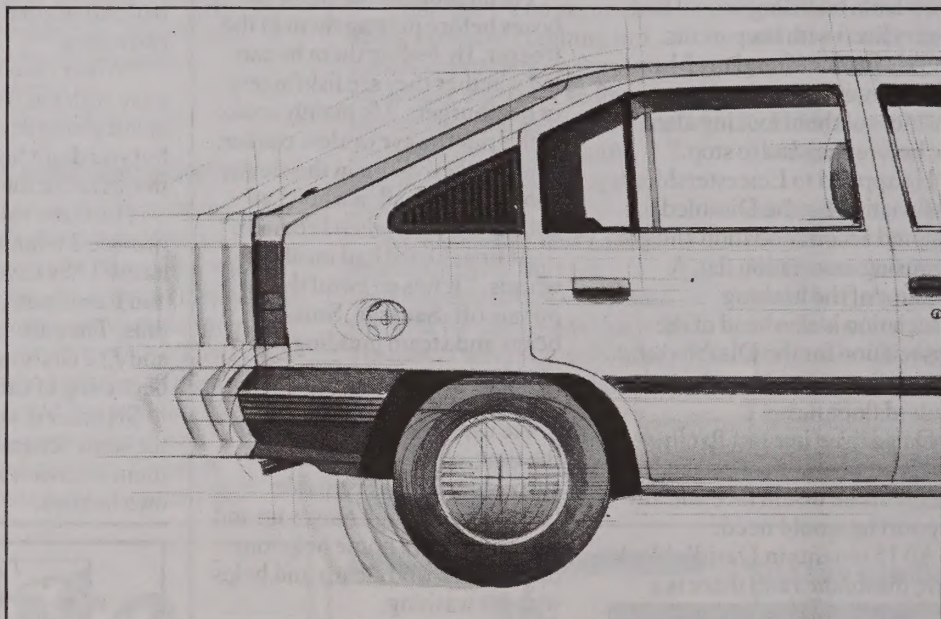
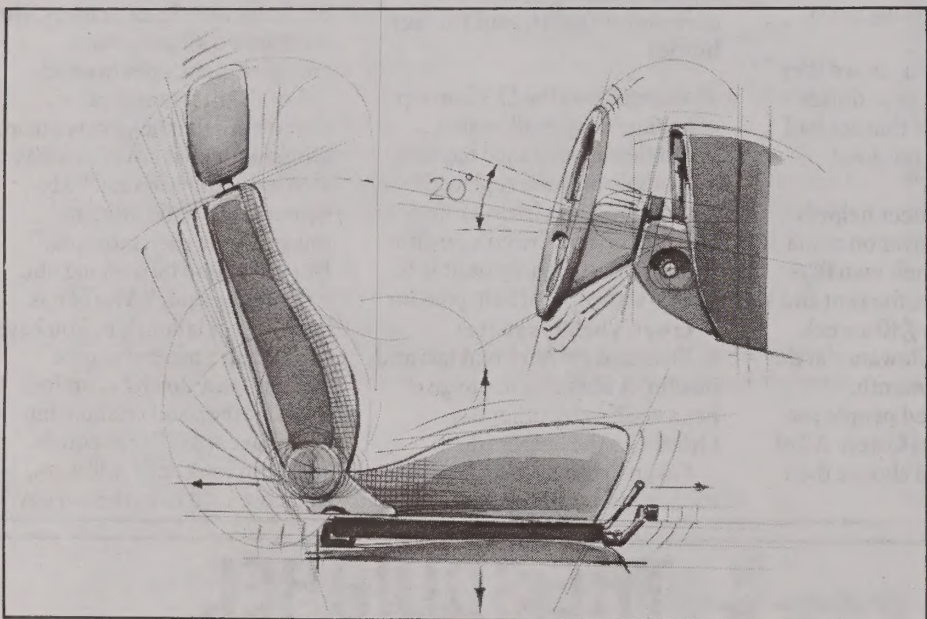
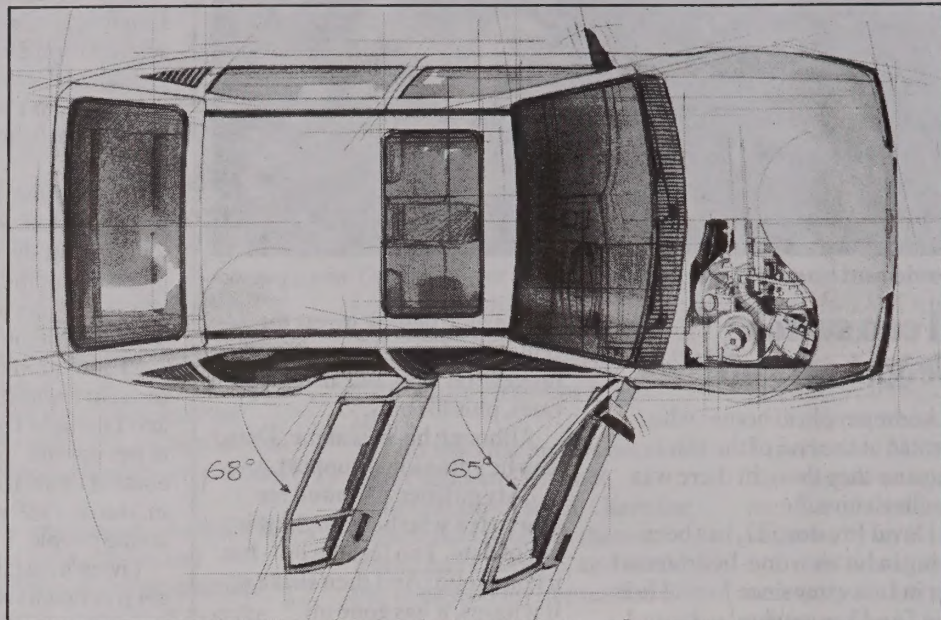
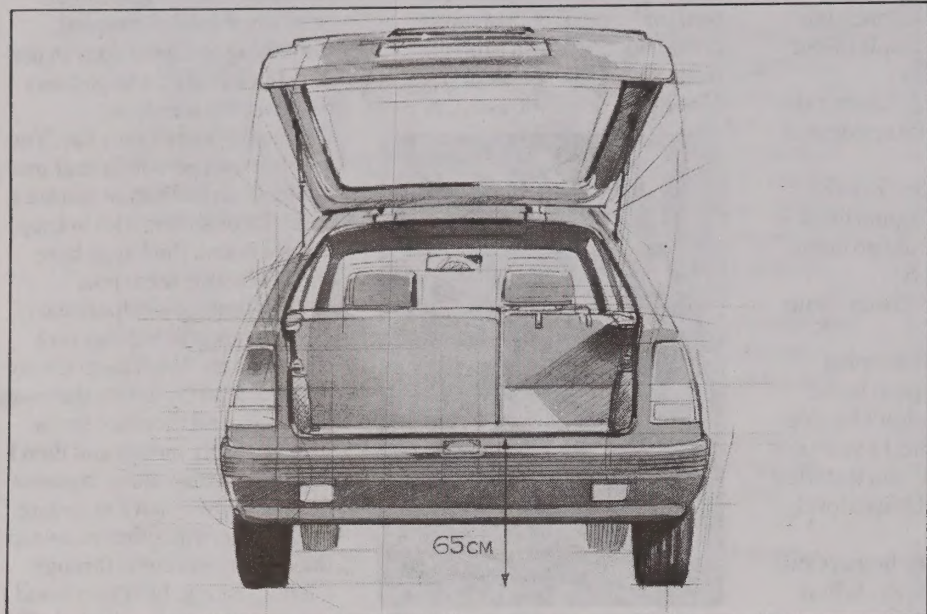
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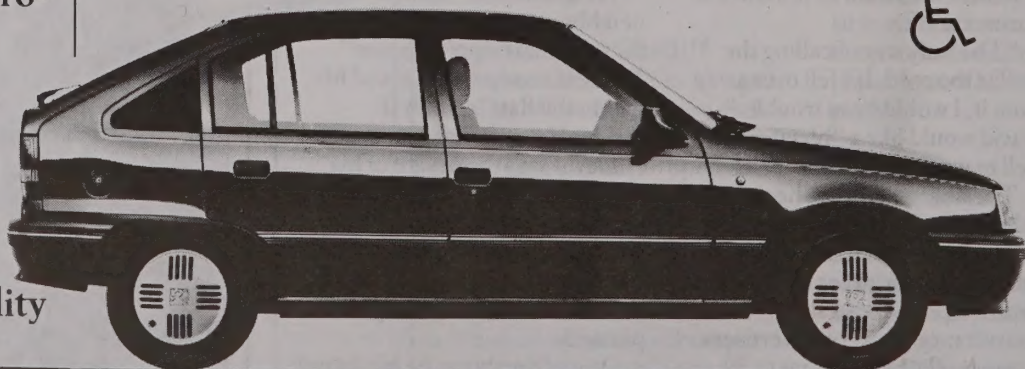
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## MOBILITY

# From advanced electronics to fold-aways

by Tina Stevens

I never cease to be amazed at the number of new products at each Naidex – surely a good sign that manufacturers are continuing to invest in research and development.

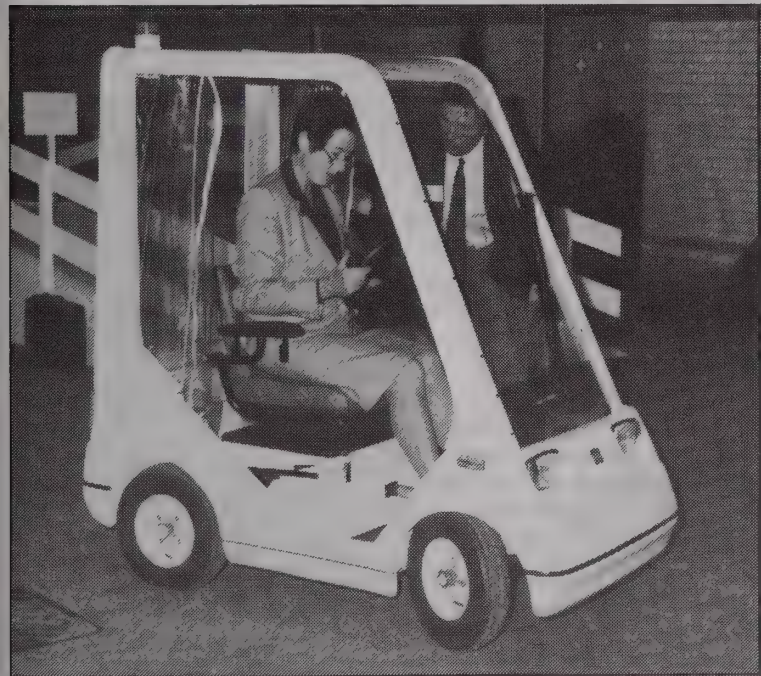
## Powered vehicles

In the 4mph vehicle range, the **Cheetah** from J & A Carters has powerful electric motors, chunky pneumatic castored front wheels and good suspension. The chair can be fitted with a padded seat or a specially fitted recaro seat, both tilting to 15 degrees. The back will recline to 30 degrees.

On a brief test drive I found the Cheetah comfortable and smooth to control. I climbed a 4in kerb when I got the technique right. The chair has its own computerised system which allows the controls to be set up for each user. £2,895, tel: (0225) 751901.

In the Class 3, 8mph range, the **Sovereign** from Sunrise Medical now vies with the Safari. It has a range of 40 miles per charge and can climb kerbs safely and comfortably. In white, with a clear perspex cabin and draw-aside "curtains", it has a swivel seat and good visibility. £3,800, tel: (0384) 480480.

The **Ampt ramp**, a three-wheeled scooter from R C



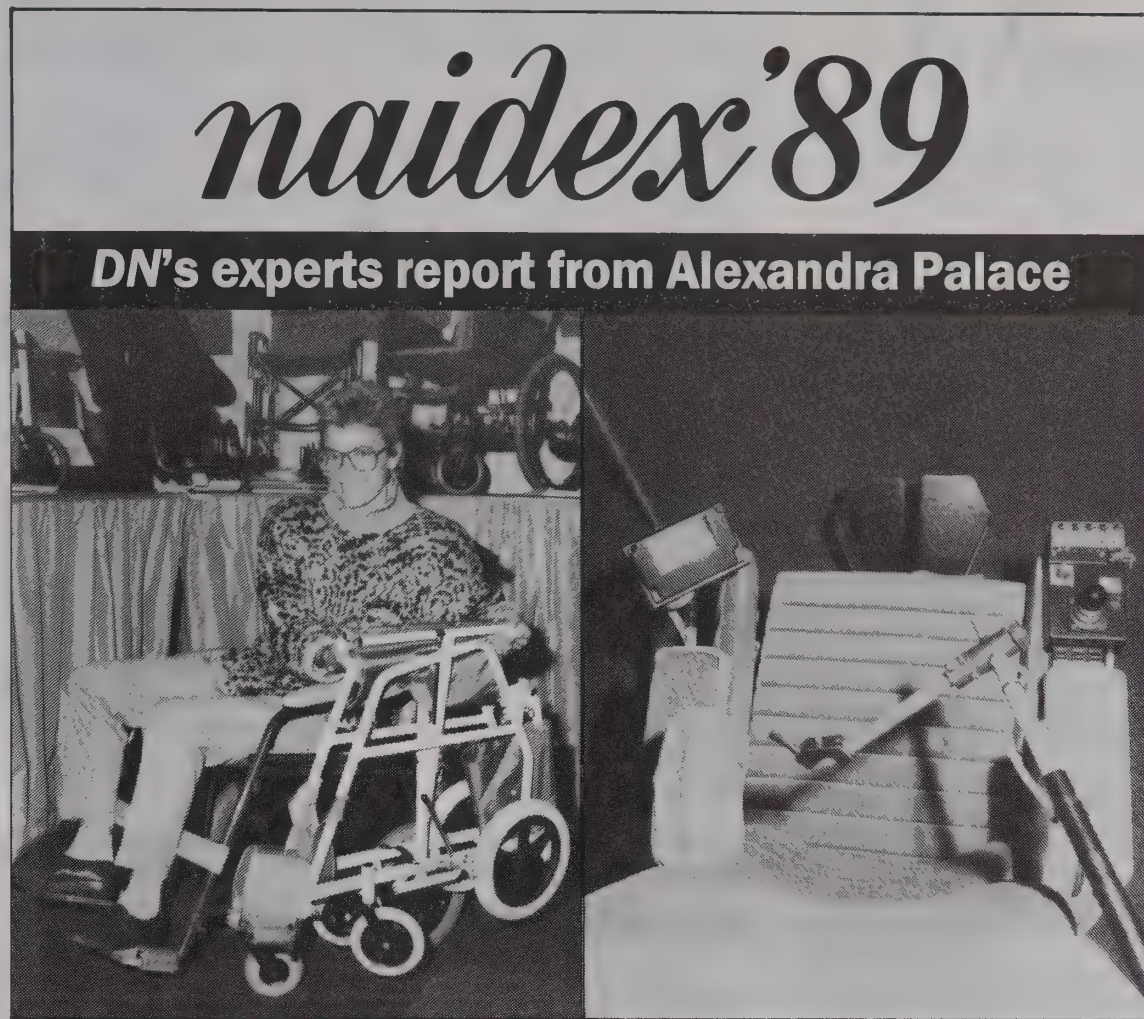
Morigue Cornwell, Mobility Officer at Banstead Place Mobility Centre, has a go in the Sovereign.

## Toasters

The celebrations (front page) were to congratulate birdwatcher Brian Anderson on winning the 1988 *Does He Take Sugar?* design competition.

A 51-year-old finance officer with BP, Brian Anderson designed the **Doesit**, a pair of fixed, wide tyres that fit onto any conventional chair and allow the user to go easily over rough, sandy or stony ground.

A local garage made a prototype using golf trolley wheels and the original concept has now been improved by the company Medici Rehab, tel: (0277) 212637, who are producing the Doesit for under £100.



## DN's experts report from Alexandra Palace



Tina's Companion, open and closed.



GRAHAM BOOL User's view of the "advanced" Permobil.

Hayes, looks like a conventional motor scooter with the added stability of a two-wheel back axle. It travels at 15mph, but can be "damped down" to conform to other A Class 2 or Class 3 vehicles.

The scooter has very bouncy suspension. Control is by a swivel-type accelerator handle,

The chair looks as if it can give independence to even the most severely disabled person. It is being used at the regional spinal injuries unit in Southport where quadriplegics are using sip and puff controls. £7,000-£10,000.

The **Acrobat** was originally designed by a REMAP panel for someone with muscular dystrophy to use in a small kitchen. It has a stand-up facility, a motorised lifting seat, plus leg lift and manual back recline and it can turn on its own axis. The five-wheel base includes two drive wheels which allow the chair to be pushed when not in use. Good for indoor mobility, £1,850 from Auto-Protos, tel: (036 786) 316.

If you'd like a petrol driven Go Kart to go on grass or sand, the **Microtrike** from Penlon Ltd would give plenty of fun and excitement, though it's difficult for children with disabilities to get into. It has a fibre-glass shell and metal cage for feet and leg support. £800 plus VAT. Tel: (09746) 449.

## Manual wheelchairs

Poirier (tel: (0276) 28562) has introduced two new sports wheelchairs, for track and basketball, designed with the French Olympic team.

Both have handles which can



Carters' Cheetah: "comfortable and smooth".

be adjusted to hold the knees in position, maintaining stability, while the athlete uses all his energy to propel the chair.

The **basketball BPS chair** is a light-weight, rigid-framed, high-performance chair weighing about 10kgs, with up to 200 axle positions. £845.

The **track chair ATL 410** weighs about 10kgs, with a snugly fitting seat also aimed at limiting body movement. Both hands can be used to control it: one steering handle for downhill speed, the other for cornering. £855.

A new one-arm (left or right) drive wheelchair from Meyra comes in adult or child size. The **Primus Mono** is £900 and the **Pico Mono** £650. Available from Orthomed, tel: 031 652 1603.

The least expensive and simplest wheelchair for a long time is the **Companion** from Newton Products, £124. Available in various colours, either self-propelling or transit, it has a fold-down back for easy storage or transportation, and would be of most interest to the occasional wheelchair user. Tel: (021) 783 6081.

Continued on page 12

All set to Go-Kart, below, in the Microtrike from Penlon.



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# naidex'89

Continued from page 11

## Walking aids

The **Rambler** from DMA Ltd, should be popular and useful for someone who also uses a wheelchair. It can be used in or out of doors and has a seat and basket easily removed for storage or transportation. £140. Tel: (0656) 57495.



Gemini 3000 lift with clear perspex canopy.

For people needing extra walking support in the supermarket, there is now a **Handicart Walker**. Like its predecessor, which attaches to a wheelchair, this is a trolley with a low centre of gravity and pushing handles which fall well within the mobile base. £110 plus VAT. From Handicart Ltd, tel: (0962) 840844.

## Wheelchair lifts and hoists

Access Solutions Ltd has launched **Ultra Lift**, a vertical platform lift capable of carrying a wheelchair user plus attendant (total of 36 stones) up 6ft. Controlled by an hydraulic ram, it can

be installed inside or out, wall-mounted or free-standing. £4,300 installed. Tel: (0264) 334434.

A domestic through-floor lift, the **Gemini 3000**, can also be free-standing or wall-mounted. It has a central, easily-reached control bar and a clear perspex canopy which gives improved visibility and makes the lift less obtrusive in the home. From Ratcliff Care, tel: (0707) 322571. £3,500.

A chair to car hoist from PCP Gratings Ltd seemed fairly basic: three-wheels, a simple back support band sling and a plastic covered metal piece to support the



The Rambler, for outdoor walking, or Naidex resting.

thighs. But both parts fitted round me fairly easily and looked as if they could do the job better than most. Up to 20 stones. £595. Tel: (09073) 75824.

*Tina Stevens manages Keep Able's equipment centre in W. London.*



In for a swing, or just nice to sit down? PCP Gratings' car-chair hoist worked "more easily than most."

## MOTORING

### It was hardly worth the effort

says David Griffiths

If driver equipment was your sole interest, this year's Alexandra Palace showcase was hardly worth the effort. Even Ford, who usually lead the field, opted out.

It was left to Citroen, making their debut with the little AX and the larger BX, backed by helpful and knowledgeable staff, Vauxhall, Volkswagen, and Rover to provide what little interest there was in "hardware" whilst the driver "software" was by courtesy of Alfred Bekker.

Citroen have only recently entered the disability scene, despite having a large following in the disability market in France.

The **AX series** could well offer attractive possibilities, being neat and functional, yet having excellent access, comfort and economy. No automatic as yet, but with the base 3-door coming out at a discount price of under £4,400 *requiring just £7.25 to start*, it could be well worth considering adding a Brian Page clutch system and hand controls for those who can cope with this system. It actually requires a larger deposit to enter into a leasing agreement!

The prices of the **Citroen BX** series start at £6,540.

Citroen have produced an excellent information pack, *Helping You Achieve Independence*, which is free from leading Citroen dealers.

Sad news from Vauxhall. The 3-door automatic **Astra Estate** is no longer available. David Alston, Vauxhall's Mobility Specialist, cited "lack of demand".

This leaves just one 3-door estate with automatic transmission — the **disabled drivers' Escort** from Ford.

Vauxhall's **Astra Merit** 3-door hatchback with the new 1.6 engine was on the Motability stand. The larger engine is also available in saloon or estate versions.

**Alfred Bekker Controls** had an excellent array of driver



The Spacebus: community transport "built with disabled people"

equipment, plus news of the Bekker Driving School and van-conversion facilities. Bekker's multi-facit disability centre, currently being constructed, will have virtually everything, from a crutch-tip to the most sophisticated living equipment under one roof. Alfred Bekker Ltd, tel: 0377 87276.

The **Clearway Lift** for around £2,000 from P & J Fretwell, is a particularly neat and efficient method of boarding a small bus or medium sized van for wheelchair users, and **Golden Boy** (see DN July) is a side-mounted, swing-in lift for the disabled driver. Prices and fitting agents from Percy Fretwell, tel: 061-274 3711.

## Community transport

Why so many of us have put up with some community transport vehicles for so long is beyond me.

How refreshing it was to see **Spacebus** on the Peugeot-Talbot stand. Not only did it look attractive, owing nothing to a delivery-van parentage, but it had actually been built with disabled people in mind: lower-than-average suspension with large viewing windows and a widened body to ease wheelchair loading.

It is said to be very comfortable. By removing seats, up to five wheelchairs can be accommodated.

The **Spacebus**, like its larger sister, the six-wheeled **Freeway** is constructed on an Al-Ko lad-

der chassis, and offers either diesel or petrol engines and front-wheel-drive through a five-speed box. There's a seven-year corrosion warranty. Prices are around £20,000, plus the cost of a tailift. Coachwork Walker, tel: (0282) 866724.

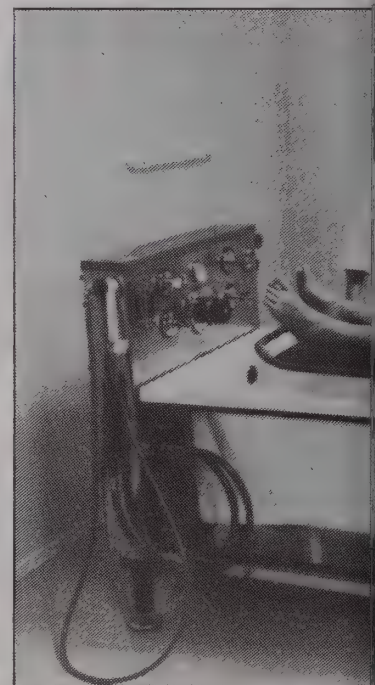
The **Omni** purpose-built minibus (DN Nov 1988) was on show.

I was not entirely convinced about the construction of the integral-folding ramp. It looked pretty awkward to negotiate at the top end where variations in the gradient take place. Improvements need to be made there.

Otherwise, Omni could well be a trend-setter for future "Transport for All".

*David Griffiths runs the Shrewsbury Driving Assessment Centre.*

*DN's coverage of microtech developments at Naidex is being held over to December.*



KEBO bath and transport system

*David Griffiths has just produced **Wheels Under You**, a handbook for young or newly-disabled people who have mobility problems. Sponsored by Ford, it includes benefits and concessions, choosing and adapting cars for people with different disabilities, learning to drive, getting insurance and a list of disabled drivers' assessment centres. £1 (including postage) from The Mobility Information Service, National Mobility Centre, Unit 2a, Atcham Estate, Shrewsbury, Shropshire SY4 4UG, tel: (074375) 889.*

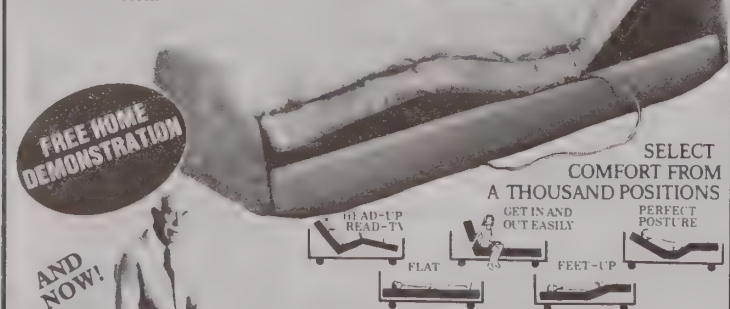
## THERAPOSTURE

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# site not to be missed



r for the Disabled Nicholas Scott shows his French opposite number, Gillibert, a copy of *DN*. He said: "Of course I see *DN* every month." On that day were assistant editor Geraldine Holden and reporter David on.

GRAHAM BOOL

## IN THE HOME

### Lots of information — worth going

says Margaret Gilbert

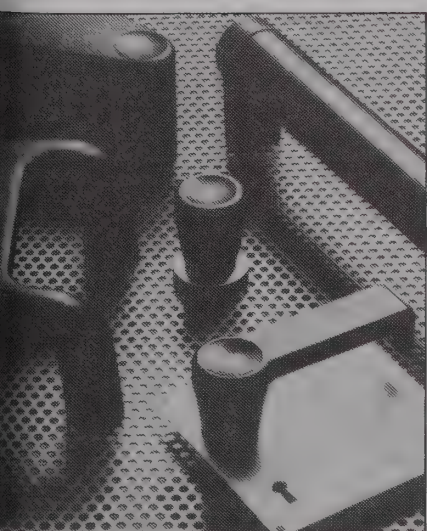
Beautiful Alexandra Palace again, with wide aisles, an unhurried atmosphere and helpful, soft sell sales people.

But walking round with disabled colleagues brought home to me once more how tiring it is, especially the felt carpeting for manual wheelchair users, and we all wished similar stands could be grouped together.

Even so, there was lots of in-



the backache out of caring.



formation and everybody found their visit worthwhile.

There were several really good new products, many from Denmark, though often at staggering prices: one excellent standing frame cost the same as a small secondhand car.

#### More organisations

But before I get on to equipment, I want to welcome the growing number of stands for societies and organisations, which have so much helpful advice and information.

The **MS Society**, for example, had excellent free literature (tel: 01-736 6267).

The **Spastics Society** showed videos and had handouts on services, education and therapy (tel: 01-636-5020). **RADAR** (01-637 5400) was promoting its National Key Scheme (NKS): for £2.75 disabled people receive a key and a list of 2,000 toilets in the UK fitted for disability.

For carers, the **National Carers Association** (01-724 7776) had information and benefits leaflets. And on the same stand, the **King's Fund Carers' Unit** (tel: 01-267 6111) had leaflets, books and videos to help carers and statutory agencies work closer together.

**Playtrac** had a stand full of imaginative play ideas for profoundly disabled children, many drawn from Flo Longhorn's excellent book, *A Sensory Curriculum for Very Special People* (Souvenir Press, £8.95).

**Playtrac** travels round the NW Thames Regional Health Authority, but is to keep Fridays free at Harperbury Hospital, Radlett, Herts, for visitors, including parents. (Contact Peggy Wickens, tel: 0923 854861).

#### Home adaptations

Anyone planning home adaptations might consider hiring architects **JAG Associates** (tel: 01-653 8213) who, for 12½ per cent of the total cost of grant-aided adaptations will draw plans, apply for planning permission, employ builders and oversee the job.

**Flexigrip** door handles, knobs and pulls (left) for people who lack a strong grip.

#### Small group homes

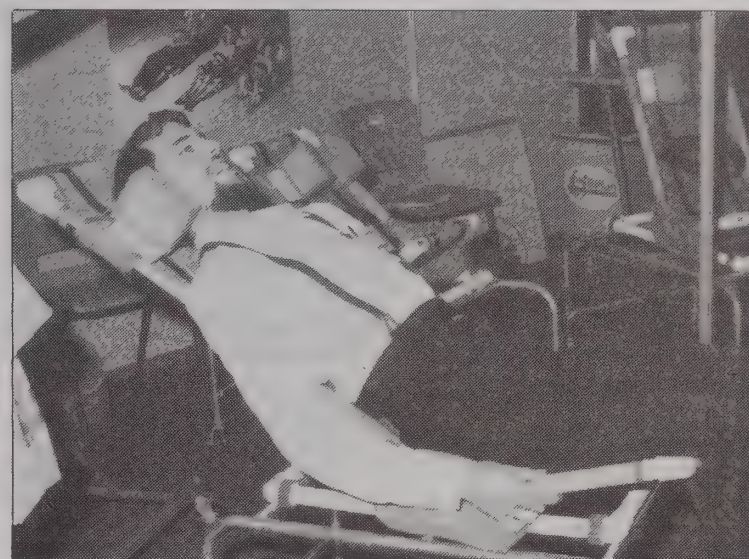
There were several flexi-systems and transporters on show for people living together with different degrees of disability.

**Llewellyns** (tel: 051-236 5311) has the **Maxi-Flex** system of kitchen units which wind up and down freely helped by gas canisters.

The **Phlexicare** system from **Nicholls and Clarke** (tel: 01-247 5432) is operated by an electric switch. A small kitchen costs about £2,000, without sink or hob.

**Phlexicare** employ their own occupational therapists nationwide to give advice — very useful if local OT resources are scarce.

**Parker Baths** (tel: 0425



Rifton's shower chair now comes in an adolescent size.

622287) have the **KEBO 9650 total transport system**. It will lift people from bed, chair or even the floor, and is waterproof.

Coupled with the **KEBO 992 bath**, which can be raised to a carer's waist height, people can have a nice soak in comfort, and the carer's back is saved. The bath has an over-ride mixer valve so nobody can be burnt accidentally, and a drain-down system to prevent Legionnaire's Disease. The only bad news is the price, £3,460 for both.

Lastly, from **Norman Tonks Hardware** comes a range of **Flexigrip** door handles, knobs and pulls, soft and chunky, that will help elderly people or those



BT's new Prelude loud speaking phone.

with arthritis get a sturdy grip. From £22.96. tel: 021-359 4751.

#### PARCELS OF *DN*

Some readers receive several copies of *DN* every month.

We must account for every copy to the Audit Bureau of Circulations, to prove our circulation figure is accurate. In future, we must ask those who receive more than one copy to keep a list of the recipients to show to ABC should they ask.

## naidex'89

#### Children's equipment

For very disabled older children, the **Pressalit adjustable system** with optional headpiece would allow them to use a standard toilet. The whole system lifts back and clips to the wall. £374 complete.

**Pressalit** (tel: 0943-607651) also make a **shower bench** which fixes to the wall but can be adjusted for height and makes a good changing table. £1,280.

**Taylor's** (tel: 0922-27601/2) had a brand new system for

The next step on from pushing a ladderback is walking with sticks, and **G & S Smirthwaite** (tel: 0626 56973) had them with T-bar handles and a wide base for £18 a pair. These should help children move more freely ready for mainstream school.

For children who need to lie prone, but want to move around, the **Biocar rolo** is great fun. Adjustable up to age four, it can be propelled by arms only. £209 from **Amilake** (tel: 01-947 7771).

The **Rifton shower chair**, now available in adolescent size, offers a good solution for larger children who have not yet managed to sit eg those with athetosis. £244.70. (tel: 0580 880626)

A new concept in walking frames from the USA looks promising, especially for cp children. The **Kaye Postural Control Walker** aims to make walking less energy consuming and to improve rhythm and timing. Distributed by **Quest 88** (tel: 0902 755906). £134-£201.

The **R82 Danish potty chair** in three sizes from **Nottingham Rehab** (tel: 0602 234251) looks very comfortable for children who are not yet sitting, but it costs from £315.

#### New telephone

**British Telecom** has launched the **Prelude**, a loud speaking phone with an amplifier on the handset, which can be wall mounted. It has a 40 number memory and easy-press buttons — excellent for people who are elderly or have arthritis. £89.95. Check with your local BT sales office.

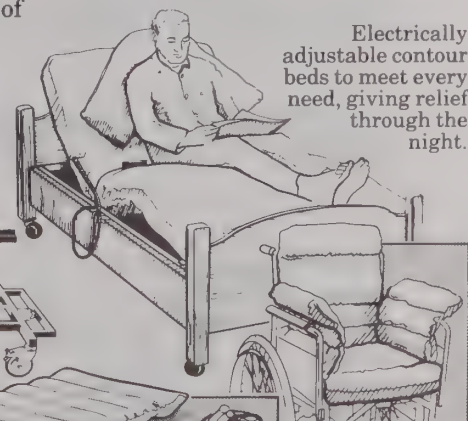
*Margaret Gilbert is an OT, now acting Client Services Manager at The Spastics Society.*

## Tendercare

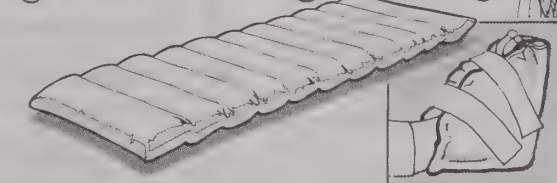
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Gel cushions <input type="checkbox"/>	



Claiming financial help, to which one is entitled, can be distressing and hazardous.

It is, of course, the duty of the responsible authorities to do their best to ensure that only those who really qualify for a particular benefit receive it, but at the same time statistics prove that many people who meet the criteria fail to claim or are rejected.

There are many reasons for this shortfall in the take-up: lack of information, inability to cope with the system, insufficient financial resources, pride. There is evidence, too, that many potential claimants and their relatives find the application process humiliating and distressing.

It is not easy for a relative/carer to emphasise the negative and problematic aspects of the claimant's disability or illness in his or her presence. Some examining doctors seem to be particularly insensitive and even unaware of the symptoms and likely progress of a particular condition.

In view of the following letters I would suggest that the Department of Social Security look again at how applications are dealt with and, in particular, how the supporting medical evidence is provided and by whom.

I have permission to quote this letter, recently written to the DSS regarding an application for Attendance Allowance. A standard reply was received.

"I am very concerned about my late wife's application for Attendance Allowance and the statement signed by me as her carer. I did not realise that so much detailed information would be required and was unprepared for this.

I found it almost impossible to give accurate information on the various questions

# Share Your Problems

with Margaret Morgan

## Allowances: claimants in severe distress



asked. I just could not remember exactly when the situation changed, as it did from day to day, and it distresses me that the statement cannot have been accurate. Having said this, I do know that my wife had one lung removed just before Christmas and had a great deal of pain from the spine from shortly after the operation onwards and she was very dependent on me.

Although she was able to walk a short distance with help and could travel in the car for some weeks, I had to be available almost continuously and would only leave her alone for short periods. On these occasions she would have the phone by her and neighbours would be alerted.

Most of the time since my wife's discharge from hospital I employed a qualified nurse for one hour, five days a week. My wife was admitted to the local hospice while the nurse was on holiday. Plans were made for her to come home, but were cancelled because she was not well enough. She died in the hospice shortly afterwards.

May I also say that I think the method of assessment, conducted in the presence of a patient where the gravity of the situation was so very apparent and some of the

questions so seemingly trivial, can be very distressing and unsatisfactory.

I would have thought that the medical records available from the GP and hospice staff and the observations of the qualified doctor conducting the interview should have provided sufficient evidence on which to make a decision.

I hope this letter will help you to make a more truthful picture of my situation and that my observations may be helpful to others in future."

"My husband has Parkinson's Disease and after a good deal of persuasion he agreed to apply for the Mobility Allowance.

It seemed clear to everyone who knew about his condition that he qualified for this benefit.

But the doctor spoke to him on his own and at that particular time of the day my husband was able to walk a short distance. He had not, however, worked for over 15 years and had not used public transport for almost as long.

The examining doctor did not appear to appreciate the fluctuations in Parkinson's Disease and little account seems to have been taken of the variations in motor ability during the day (and night).

Although there were, and

increasingly are, times when my husband cannot walk at all, he tends to underplay his difficulties and his application was rejected.

He refused to appeal and for some while he was unwilling to re-apply. Eventually he was persuaded to do so and this time his claim was accepted.

Now he would qualify for the Attendance Allowance, but he won't apply. He finds the questions distressing, probably because they bring home to him just how disabled and dependent he is.

Is there any way in which the claiming process can be made easier for people with illnesses and disabilities like Parkinson's Disease where the symptoms are well-known and predictable?

I am sure the Parkinson's Disease Society would help, but there must be many others like my husband who find the whole procedure too disturbing to face again."

There are a number of organisations, including the growing number of hospices, offering help and advice to people with cancer and their relatives. Here are some addresses together with an address for anyone who wishes to contact The Parkinson's Disease Society.

*CancerLink, 17 Britannia Street, London WC1X 9N7, tel: 01-833 2451*

*Macmillan Fund for Cancer Relief, Anchor House, 15/19 Britten Street, London SW3 3TZ, tel: 01-351 7811*

*Marie Curie Cancer Care, 28 Belgrave Square, London SW1X 8QG, tel: 01-235 3325*

*The Parkinson's Disease Society of the UK, 36 Portland Place, London W1N 3DG, tel: 01-255 2432.*

## PROFILE



DAVID HEAVEY

## Allan Sutherland

Allan Sutherland, the first political stand-up comic on the disability arts circuit, has now sold an episode of a sit-com series – *Inmates* – to the BBC. Two more shows have been commissioned of the story about four disabled people in a long-stay institution.

Co-writer Stuart Morris says it will bring disability into mainstream comedy, and praises his partner for pointing out ridiculous aspects of society: "I look to Allan to provide the political point of view," he says. And his sense of humour? "It's pink with red spots."

Described as a 'disability version of *Porridge*', *Inmates* will be performed by disabled actors, and the disabilities portrayed will all be congenital. "I didn't want to use easy disabilities," says Allan Sutherland. "The movies are full of people who don't really belong in the disability world, they aren't really cripples."

On the other hand he found his own epilepsy too difficult for drama. "Mostly it doesn't show," he says, "and when it does, you're unconscious. So it's hard to write about for TV."

Allan Sutherland was a film reviewer for *Time Out* and *Sight and Sound* before writing *Disabled We Stand* and *Adventure Play With Handicapped Children* (both Souvenir Press).

He then started writing scripts with Stuart Morris for Radio 4's *Weekending* and performing stand-up comedy. This brought him some celebrity in the disability arts world, where he is affectionately known as the Grand Mal comedian.

"He has tried to reach out to other epileptic people," said Sian Vasey at the London Disability Arts Forum. "He's helped give disability a legitimacy: it's *alright* to be epileptic, you can talk about it. It might even be trendy to be disabled one day!"

She then quoted his famous opening line: "'My name's Allan Sutherland. I'm an epileptic. Don't panic.' Those words are engraved on the mind of everyone who has heard him."

David Nicholson

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DN11



nderwear plays a vital role in making clothes look good and the wearer feel great.

The right undies can also make dressing easier. A smooth top, for example, allows top garments to glide on, and if you follow that with a two-in-one garment, high-fashion this year, you will have fewer items to put on as well.

Keeping warm is a perennial problem, but an insulating layer next to the skin really helps.

Marks & Spencer now have three warmth gradings for their thermal undies and Damart, renowned for their winter warmers, have a wide variety of styles and colours in women's sizes up to a 52in hip. The Damart catalogue has a special supplement this autumn giving advice for people with dressing difficulties.

The latest development of the mini knicker, a chemise teddie, combines both underpants and top with great style. Any crutch-strengthened garment can be put on over the head, avoiding the need to take knickers up and down.

Pretty bras give more than just physical uplift, but they may be difficult to fasten. For those who can move their shoulders easily, the pull-on crop top is the answer. Bra slips with no

# Undercover matters

Ginny Jenkins chooses the clothes; Amanda Bullion models them



No-fasten crop top in nylon lycra with matching, high-leg pants – very comfortable for a wheelchair user. £5.99 each. Black or white, from Marks & Spencer.

MARCIA MAY



White camisole in soft, stretchy, triacetate/polyester has a crutch fastening. Sizes 10-16, £13.99, from Marks & Spencer. Wheelchair: Vessa Vitesse 2000.

fastenings can sometimes be stepped into.

Retailers have recognised the demand for a larger range of bra sizes. Marks & Spencer now include a D cup in most ranges.

Some women may prefer to shop by post so that they can try on items at home. J D Williams, whose catalogue includes many fashionable and easily put-on undies, has a wide range of bras, up to 56in, F fitting. Next season there will be a G cup too.

Given all these opportunities, maybe it's time you considered fashion down under?

For a group catalogue called "Ambrose Wilson", write to J D Williams 53 Dale Street, Manchester M60 6ES, tel: (061) 236 9911. A new disability catalogue is being prepared for the Spring. To get a free copy, contact Sandra McDowell, Mason Williams, 21 Ralli Court, West Riverside, Manchester M3 5FT, tel: (061) 835 2274. Damart, Bowling Green Mills, Lime Street, Bingley, West Yorkshire BD16 4BH, tel: (0274) 568211

Ginny Jenkins is clothing adviser at the Disabled Living Foundation, 380-384 Harrow Road, London W9 2HU, tel: 01-289 6111.



Better on a woman? Man's black/grey cotton vest (left) from M & S, S-ExL, £6.99. Below left: shortie nightie, 10-16 (from £15.99) and warm-lined nightshirt (used here as a robe), 10-20, £19.99. Pink or ice-blue. From M & S range.



No-fasten bra-slip (above) from J D Williams in peach, black or white, 36-44, B/C cup, £12.99. Damart's cable-knit spencer and long pants (right) in various colours, 10-24, £7.99-£10.75. Wheelchair: Remploy Roller.



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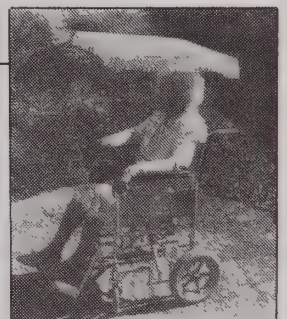
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**NEW CONCEPT CORSETRY AMBROSE WILSON**



The A-Z Of Disability.  
Directory Of Information,  
Services, Organisations,  
Equipment and  
Manufacturers.  
by Pat Saunders  
(The Crowood Press, £8.98)

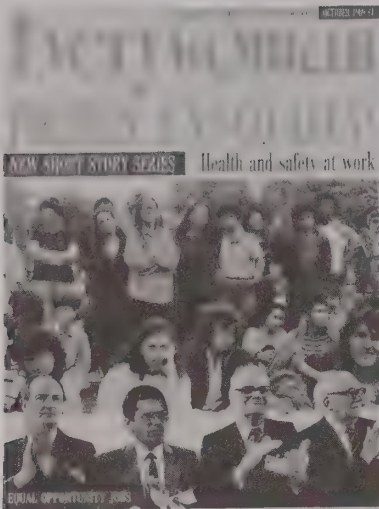
"For many disabled people  
information is key to a happy and  
fulfilled life", says Pat Saunders  
in the introduction to his new  
directory. True, it is full of  
information relevant to the daily  
living of people with disabilities,  
their relatives and carers, but the

difficulty is in finding it!  
Although the subjects are in  
alphabetical order, the lack of an  
index, and unusual headings  
such as "Caught Short", makes it  
very frustrating if you are looking  
for a specific subject in a hurry.  
A major drawback is that  
details of manufacturers'  
equipment, social groups,  
voluntary organisations and  
information on particular  
conditions are all mixed in  
together.  
For example, "Orange Badge  
Scheme" was sandwiched  
between "Orange Aids", an  
equipment manufacturer, and a  
personal anecdote.  
The space allocated to  
subjects was also surprising: the

BOOKS

Across Trust was allocated two  
pages whilst Muscular  
Dystrophy was given only half a  
page.  
Pat Saunders is well known for  
his expertise in the field of  
information provision for people  
with disabilities, so it is  
disappointing that this long-  
awaited directory does not live up  
to expectations.  
Its easy-to-read style is marred  
by a confusion of aims. Is it a  
directory of "hard" information,  
an equipment manufacturers'  
catalogue or a book of anecdotes,

jokes and personal experiences  
of disabled people?  
It was also difficult to decide  
who it was written for. Newly  
disabled people are often unsure  
of what they are looking for and  
need clear sign-posting, while  
people who have been disabled  
for a long time would find  
nothing new in the directory.  
Many of the anecdotes were  
sexist and offensive to people  
with disabilities.  
Perhaps the role for *The A-Z  
Disability* is best summed up by  
Pat Saunders himself: "Leave it  
on the coffee table for a while and  
from time to time open it  
anywhere for a few moments  
amusement".  
Beverley Hollan



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DN11

Look out for...

Artlink South has published  
*Access Guide: Facilities for Disabled  
People in Hampshire Arts Venues*. It  
is available from Artlink, 143  
Kingston Road, Portsmouth  
PO2 7EB, tel: (0705) 828392.

The Drake Research Project  
(Music for Disabled People) is  
holding a seminar called *A  
Programme for Microtechnology and  
Music* on Saturday 25 November,  
10am to 4pm, at the Maria  
Assumpta Centre, 23  
Kensington Square, London W8  
5HN. For details contact Adele  
Drake, 15c Kidbrooke Park  
Road, Blackheath, London SE3  
0LR, tel: 01-856 9830.

The first soap opera for tape

has been brought out by the In-  
Touch Islington Centre. *A  
Family Affair* was written and  
performed by blind and partially-  
sighted members of the centre  
during their weekly workshops,  
and they are now at work on a  
musical. Contact Joy Whitton on  
01-354 2015.

Listen, a taped magazine from  
East Midlands Arts, comes out in  
November. There is also a  
printed listings service: *What's  
Going On*. Further details from  
Annie Delin, East Midlands  
Arts, Mountfield House, Forest  
Road, Loughborough,  
Leicestershire LE11 3HU, tel:  
(0509) 218292.

The London Bubble theatre  
company is putting on a signed  
pantomime, *Snowella* on 14

December at 1.30 pm and 15  
December at 7.30 pm at the  
Secombe Centre, Cheam Road  
Sutton, Surrey, tel: 01-661  
0461; then on 11 January at 2 pm  
and 7 pm at the North Peckham  
Civic Centre, 600-608 Old Kent  
Road, London SE17, tel: 01-70  
2917.

From the Alchemist's Library  
is a new collection of sculptures  
by Adam Reynolds, forming his  
annual exhibition. Many of the  
objects will be lead, including  
books and the occasional  
gargoyle. The show runs from 9  
to 25 November on Thursdays,  
Fridays and Saturdays, or by  
prior telephone appointment.  
Contact Adam Reynolds at the  
Adam Gallery, 62 Walcot  
Square, London SE11, tel: 01-  
582 1260.

Reha-Buggy

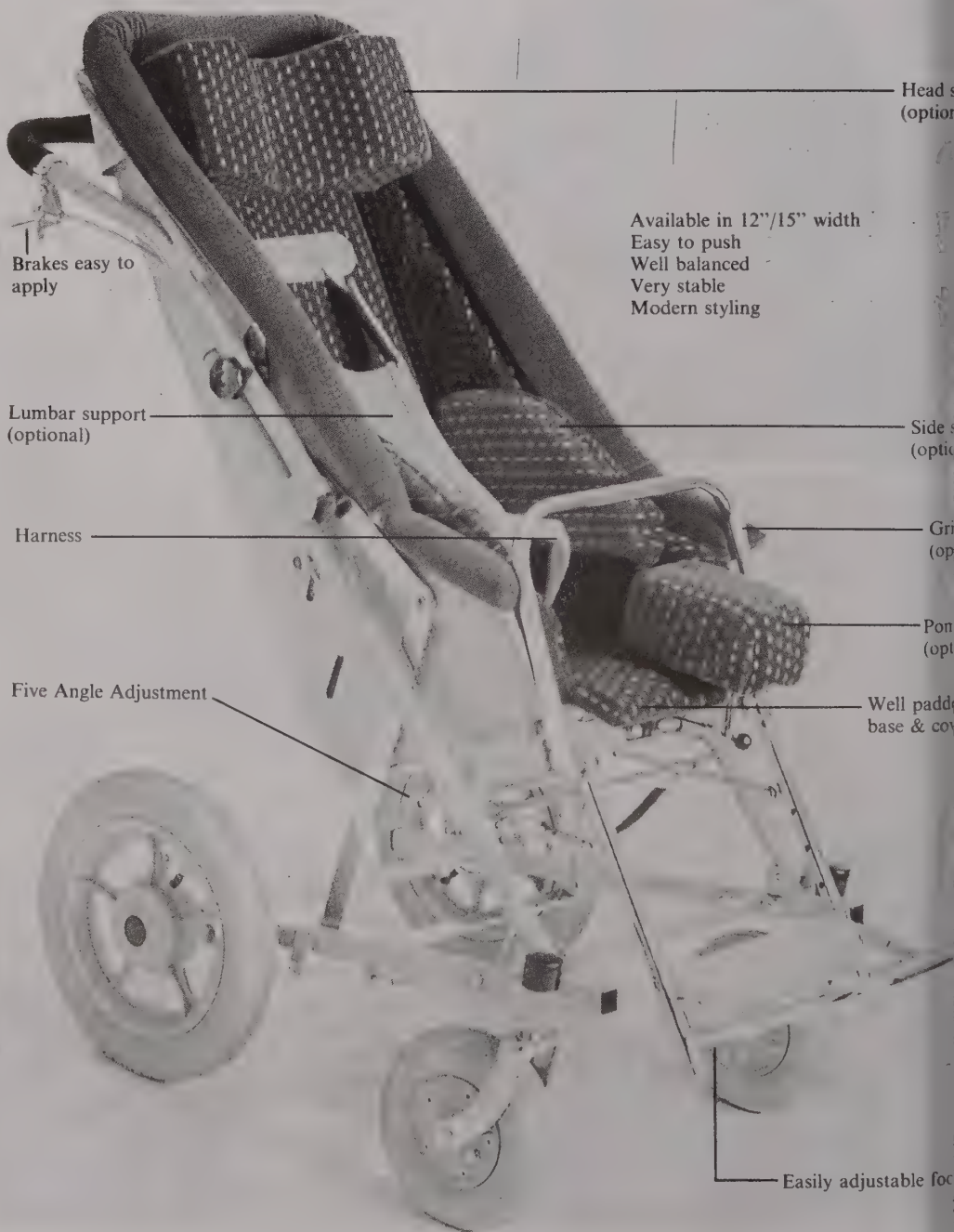
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DN11/89





# Art at Heart: touch sculpture

I recently attended a seminar on art education in schools for the blind in Japan, organised to coincide with the exhibition *Art at Heart* opening at the Royal College of Art in late November.

The show consists of 30 sculptures made by blind Japanese students over the last 40 years. There is a certain irony in previewing a show whose dominant aesthetic must be tactile when so far I have only seen photographs.

However, the exhibition clearly contains much work that is very powerful even from a visual point of view.

Works such as Suzuki's "Super Potato", Shirai's "Arch", Kinjo's "Dream Tower" or Ishida's "Cabbage" are highly seductive on a purely visual plane and pose the question of interaction between different senses.

This is further encouraged by Murakami's "My synthesizer". This piece seems the least visually accessible: not surprising since it seeks to give a three dimensional shape to music. It

works (very successfully I am told) as an interaction between hearing and touch.

The dominant feeling is of a collection which exudes clarity and sincerity of expression, which contain and communicate a pleasure of creation. It is hard to expect much more than that.

There has evolved in post-war Japan a tradition of art education in the 70-odd schools for the

## ART

blind, which seems to have led to the foundation in 1984 of the gallery Tom, the first active tactile gallery, which organised this exhibition together with the Japan foundation and the RNIB.

At the seminar three Japanese art teachers highlighted a number of issues. All were clear that blind students need more time to learn art techniques than sighted ones.

However, one teacher in

particular felt that this restriction should not limit materials used. He has successfully used wood, plastics and metals, as well as clay.

It is also important to allow students to follow their work through to the finish. Personal achievement is an important part of the process.

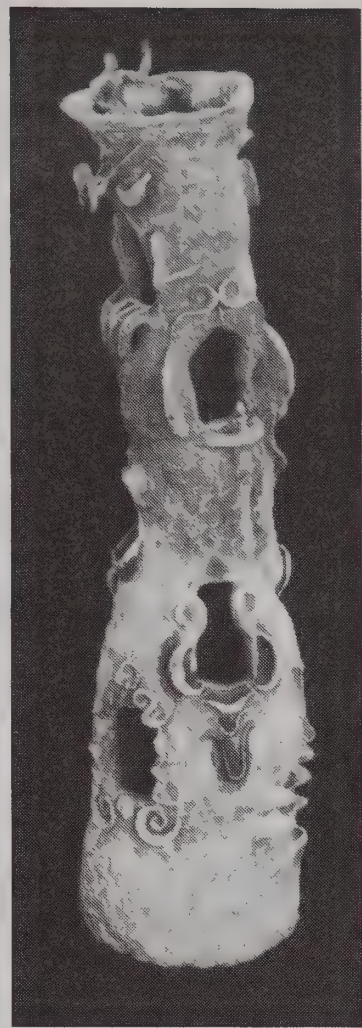
Another teacher was concerned with the creation of a "free atmosphere" in which to work. Self-expression, it was argued, is only possible in an environment where there are no pressures, no expectations.

A very healthy follow-on is the breakdown of the master-pupil relationship common to most school subjects. The best art teachers will treat their pupils as equals and hope to learn as much as they teach.

There is, as ever, the lurking problem of segregated or integrated education. I suspect, though, that *Art at Heart* will shed a little light on that dark corner, and I certainly recommend a visit.

Adam Reynolds

*Art at Heart, 28 November-14 December, 10am to 5pm every day, Royal College of Art, Kensington Gore, London SW7 2VU. Further details from Marcus Weisen, RNIB, tel: 01-388 1266.*



**Dream Tower** by Minoru Kinjo (aged 15) from Okinawa school.

## FILM

### See No Evil Hear No Evil

Oh dear. What a horror this was. It was exactly as you would expect a film with stereotypical blind and deaf characters played for laughs throughout to be.

The usually funny and not even slightly disabled Gene

Wilder and Richard Pryor hammed their way through a script drenched with all the "jokes" you can imagine about blind people crashing into walls (ha, ha), deaf people being stupid (ho, ho). And a lot of the audience laughed.

The plot entails our two "heroes" witnessing a murder and then mistakenly being arrested as the people who have committed it. They manage to escape from the police and go on the trail of the real murderers and a valuable gold coin, creating mayhem as they go.

The film's problem is not so much the hackneyed jokes, as in the wholly inaccurate portrayals of deaf and blind people. Gene Wilder's character has a much more profound disability than his deafness. In this film, even though he is up and walking around, the man appears to have no sensation in his body whatsoever. The poor thing can't feel when bombs are let off behind him or has no idea when somebody is yelling one millimetre away from his ear.

However, this superman can lipread about 99 per cent of what is being said, and for someone who's been deaf for about fifteen years has a remarkably "hearing" voice. Richard Pryor's blind character spends his time moving like a startled puppet from *Thunderbirds*.

Don't go and see this film. Don't get the video. And tell your friends not to bother. You'd get more laughs out of reading *Mein Kampf*.

Elsbeth Morrison



Richard Pryor and Gene Wilder star as Wally and Dave in what the makers call an 'outrageous action comedy'. They continue: 'Wally, who is blind, decides to test his musical aptitude, but the gentle Dave is unable to appreciate his friend's ability.'



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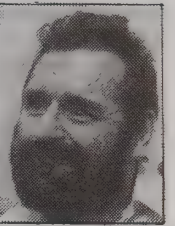
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## TV

In the first of ten programmes, **Same Difference**

(C4, 2 October) paid tribute to Ellie Wilkie and did it well, but investigated The Spastics Society not so well.



It is not for me to defend The Society. Nor on certain issues would I wish to do so. Mark Todd's report, though, was neither accurate in its reportage of facts nor in its aim.

This was not a listing of precise accusations, but a series of inferences which created an ambiguous impression that, although it is changing, The Spastics Society is merely going from bad to worse and causing havoc in the process.

*Same Difference* (and indeed the Disability Movement) ought to be more selective in its criticisms of The Society, and give credit where it is due. No organisation is entirely without virtue. Wanting to dish the dirt is one thing; but if the dirt can't be found, don't try.

The Society's Chief Executive declined to appear in the programme. This, too, was used against The Society. Given the anti-Society tenor of the programme, he was probably on a hiding to nothing anyway. Opinionated television: yes. Prejudiced tabloid journalism: no thanks!

**Strangers** (BBC1, 20 September, weekly) is an imported children's series, in which the character of a young deaf girl with impaired speech who uses sign language is played by someone who genuinely has this disability.

Dramatically, it works well, and is an integral part of the story without being obtrusive. If New Zealand can do it, why can't we?

**Walking On Wheels** (Equinox series, C4, 1 October) investigated whether wheelchairs could be improved to fulfil their mobility function. The programme was slanted towards independently mobile disabled people. But on the whole it was original and well intended.

Despite its title, **A Very Special School** (BBC1, 21 September) portrayed a school which seemed no more special than any other so-called special school. It talked to professionals and parents, but not to the children. And in any case, do we want to praise segregated education?

The **Lifeline** (BBC1, 10 September) appeal for Understanding Disabilities Educational Trust, while talking about disabled people, never actually talked to them!

Considering that the Trust is about disability awareness in schools, it is a shame that the BBC could not be more disability aware itself.

Chris Davies

**Soap latest:** *Brookside* features a car crash, and *Eastenders* revives a wheelchair using character.



## WHAT'S ON

**Health Information Day** at Manchester University, 11 November. Subjects will include: behavioural problems; radio hearing aids; and social skills training. £5 for parents of deaf or deaf-blind children, £15 for professionals. Stacey Hartshorn, Health and Social Services Department, The National Deaf Children's Society, 45 Hereford Road, London W2 5AH, tel: 01-229 9272.

**The establishment and maintenance of a Disabled Living Centre.** Training day, 16 November at the Disabled Living Foundation, London. Cost £25. Details from Tony Travis, Disabled Living Centres Council, 380/384 Harrow Road, London W9 2HU, tel: 01-266 2059.

**Exhibition of Aids and Equipment** the Sea Terminal Building, Isle

of Man, 20 and 21 November. More details from Rita Spicer at The Spastics Society, 7 Railway Shops, Peel Road, Douglas, Isle of Man, tel: (0624) 26019.

**Sexuality and physical disability** - a two part residential course at Fairfield House, Stanhope, Bishop Auckland on 21 - 24 November. Fee £300. Details and application form from Miss J Cowen, Secretary, Newcastle Council for the Disabled, The Dene Centre, Castles Farm Road, Newcastle NE3 1PH, tel: 091-284 0480.

**Castle Priory**

**Working with Parents - Transition to Adulthood** - for those involved with parents of people with special needs. 1-3 December. Tuition £83. Residence £57. Non-residence £30.

**Listening and Responding** - to improve lay counselling skills. 15-17 December. Tuition £83. Residence £57. Non-residence £30.

Further information from Castle Priory College, Thames Street, Wallingford, Oxon OX10 0HE (enclose SAE please), tel: (0491) 37551.

## INFO

**Set of six books** for adults with learning difficulties. Stories plus illustrations. £6.95 for the set and a teacher's guide. From bookshops or Silent Books, Swavesey, Cambridge, CB4 5RA, tel: (0954) 31000.

**Guide to Public Toilets in Scotland.** The Scottish Council on Disability has published this guide on accessible toilets. £1.00 from Information Dept, Scottish Council on Disability, Princess House Edinburgh, EH2 4RG, tel: 031-229 8632.

**Epilepsy Helpline.** For advice, help and information, tel: (0345) 089599, 9.00am-4.30pm Monday to Thursday, 9.00am-4.00pm Friday. All calls charged at local rate.

**In Our Own Words - Dysphasic People Talking** records the experiences of a group of dysphasic people and how they came to terms with this severe communication disorder following strokes. Cost 45p, or free with an SAE to people with dysphasia, from Action for Dysphasic Adults, Northcote House, 37a Royal Street, London SE1 7LL.

**The National Federation of Access Centres** has 14 centres around the country. They assess disabled adults for computer aids and provide follow up advice and support. Cost £150. Further details from Barbara Weston, Banstead Place Assessment Centre, Park Road, Banstead, Surrey, SM7 3EE, tel: (0737) 356222.

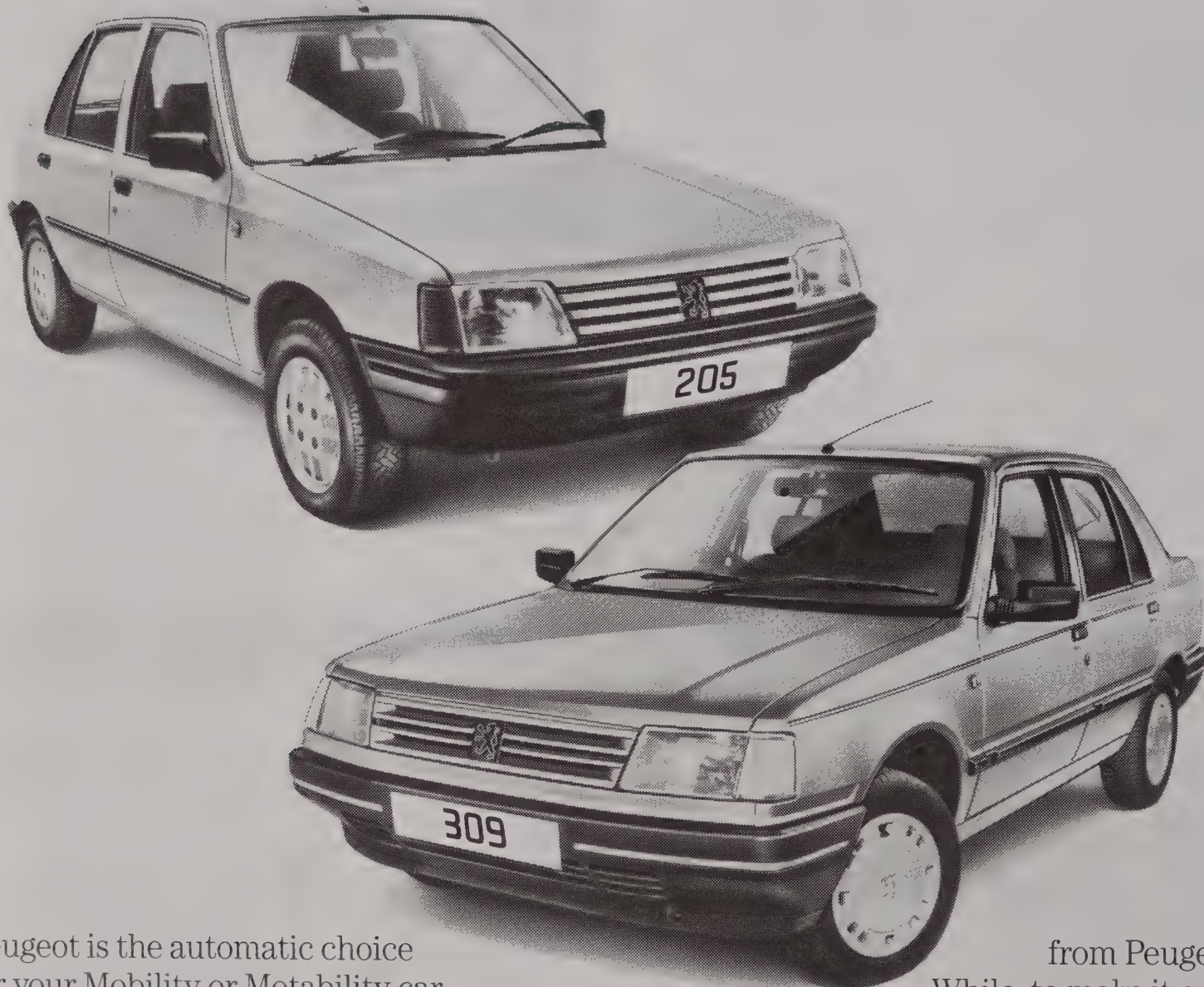
**Driver Assessment and Training,** a complete training package including a guide for assisting wheelchair passengers. Price £15 from Community Transport Association, Highbank, Halton Street, Hyde, Cheshire SK14 2NY, tel: 061-351 1475.

**Jailbreak!** On 11 November sponsored teams, raising money for The Spastics Society, will attempt to get as far away as possible from Strangeways prison in Manchester. For details of how to get involved contact Anne Gillott, The Spastics Society, St James's House, Pendleton Way, Salford, M6 5JA, tel: 061-736 9850.

**Can You Claim It?**, a new leaflet from Help the Aged, gives people over 60 an idea of how benefits are worked out and more information about their entitlement. Free copies are available at Help the Aged shops or by post (enclose a SAE 9" x 6") from Chris Katic, The Information Desk, Help the Aged, St James Walk, London EC1R 0BE.

Elizabeth Wincott has been appointed General Secretary of the British Deaf Association. **James McKinnon** is the new Director of the Disabled Living Foundation. The following people were elected to new positions at the recent AGM of the **British Council of Organisations of Disabled People**: chair - John Evans; deputy chairs - Lucille Lyden, Jane Campbell; general secretary - Martin Pagel; treasurer - Richard Wood.

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Application forms and further information available from The Personnel Unit, Municipal Offices, The Ridgeway, Chingford, London E4 6PS. Telephone 9am - 5pm, 01-527 5544 ext. 6153 (24 hour answerphone: 01-531 8899). Please quote Ref: N3451/DN. Closing date: 17.11.89.



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Closing date for completed application forms is 7th November 1989.

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Further details and application form from: **Julie Lucas, 336 Brixton Road, London SW9 7AA. Telephone: 01-274 2299 extension 128.**

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Candidates must have a sound and thorough knowledge of the issues surrounding training for employment for people with disabilities. Excellent interpersonal skills, resourcefulness and the ability to work as a team are also essential. A minimum of three years relevant experience required.

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Interviews: 29 November 1989

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The job will include advising departments on employment issues as well as assisting the progress and career development of existing employees with disabilities.

Applicants must have wide knowledge of, and an understanding of the needs of disability issues relating to employment. Experience of working with black and ethnic minority people with disabilities would be an advantage.

Personnel experience, especially in recruitment, is desirable together with the ability to persuade and influence people at all levels. Experience of working with voluntary organisations in the disability field and the ability to produce and present reports would be an advantage.

Applicants must have a well developed commitment to equality of opportunity. Applications for this post are restricted to candidates having a physical, sensory or hearing disability (registered or unregistered).

Black and ethnic minority applicants are particularly welcome as these are under-represented in this category (Section 38 RRA applies).

Job Sharers Welcome.

Waltham Forest is a multi-racial area and we are anxious to ensure this is reflected in our work force. All applications for jobs are considered on merit with equal opportunities for women, black and ethnic minorities, lesbians and gay men and people with disabilities.

**Further details and application forms from  
Recruitment Officer, Personnel Department, Town Hall,  
Forest Road, London E17 4JF. Tel: 01-531 8899 (24 hour  
answering service).**

**Please quote Reference No: R2957/DN**

**Closing date: 17.11.89.**



### FOR SALE

**ELECTRIC WHEELCHAIR** (out-door), UVE Everest Jennings. 2 Owners, good working order, mechanically checked. 3 years old. £12,000 ono Tel: Andrew Clark on (0256) 21430.

**BLUE HAWK SUPACART** £500 ono. Blo-Boy Scooter £400 ono. Tel:(0254) 61536 (evening), (0254) 583555 ext 3029 (daytime)

**FORD TRANSIT 190 VAN**, hand controls, X reg, 41000 miles, long MOT, 2 litre petrol, automatic power steering, lift to side door, kitchen running water. One disabled owner, possible to drive from wheelchair. Offers. Tel: 01-367 8458.

**FORTRESS SCIENTIFIC MODEL 655 POWER WHEELCHAIR.** Reclining Positions. 9 Months old, hardly used. Complete with battery charger. Cost £2000, accept £1700 ono. Tel: (0635) 43118.

**BEC SUPA SCOOTA** colour blue, complete with batteries. As new. £1000 ono. Tel: (0244) 520533.

**EXPLORER CAR**, petrol and electric, red, 2 years old, pillar steering, for person with a disability. Excellent condition, heater, high quality radio cassette fitted. £18,000 ono. Tel: 01-985 8869 (days), 01-986 5293 (evenings).

**IDEAL XMAS PRESENTS** for W/C user, special U.S. Lapdesk, fits all chairs £21.50 each, p/p £2.00. W/C padded gloves, racing style, small, medium and large, £10.50 a pair, p/p £1.00. Also walker frame carry all, wrap around, 2 deep easy to reach side pockets, strong velcro fasteners £12.95 each, p/p £1.50. Details from J Riley DNI, 9 Caldecote Gdns, Bushey, Herts, WD2 3RA, tel: 01-950 6635.

**ESCORT 1300 1985**, low mileage. Adapted for disabled confined to wheelchair. Easy access by ramp. Secured locking inertia belts. Excellent condition £4500 ono. Tel (0562) 823801.

**MEYRA WHEELCHAIR** cost £562, accept £400. High low bed, cost £400, accept £200. Arjo shower trolley, cost £1444, accept £800. Cosycoes 4 wheelchair £20. All items condition as new. Bargain prices for quick sale. Tel: Wisbech (0945) 61694 after 6 pm.

**BEC STERLING SCOOTA** (1988). Very good condition, hardly used. Battery charger and scoota cover. As new £1495, for sale at £800. Tel: Poole (0202) 730206.

**A REG FIAT 127**, white and red, Fiorino equipped with ramp and fixings for wheelchairs. Good condition, MOT 1 year, taxed till March 1990. Low mileage £1700. Tel: Cardiff (0222) 592423.

**BEC PORTABLE ELECTRIC SCOOTA** battery plus charger. Shopping basket. In very good condition, only used few times. Can be viewed near Guildford/Leatherhead, Surrey. £300 ono. Tel: (04865) 3444.

**JIGSAWS BY MAIL ORDER.** Choose from over 300 Jigsaws inc. Waddingtons, Mandolin Heye. For free catalogue write to The Jigsaw Connection, 1 Main Road, Grindleford, Sheffield, S30 1HN, tel: (0433) 30121.

**AUSTIN METRO 1.3** automatic mobility conversion, to carry 3 persons and wheelchair, complete with equipment. B reg, April 85. Genuine 12,600 miles. £4,950 ono. Tel: Blackburn (0254) 675309.

**CLOSOMAT SHOWER AND CLOSOMAT TOILET/BIDET** made by Chiltern Medical Dev. Ltd. New - not been used. Cost £4000 - will accept £2000. Tel: 01-402 1851 (after 6 pm), 01-204 2236 (daytime).

*Disability Now is not responsible for claims made in the advertisements it prints and all readers are advised to check claims with the advertisers before relying on them.*

If you would like *DN* on tape contact Gayle Mooney on 01-636 5020 ext 244.

### ACTION ON DISABILITY & DEVELOPMENT Accountant/Senior Finance Officer

Action on Disability & Development (ADD) is a non-profit making Company, established in 1985 to work with disabled people in developing countries to improve their lives.

ADD works in partnership with organisations of disabled people and currently is supporting over 70 projects in Africa and India.

The successful candidate will support and assist the Director in the management of ADD's financial affairs. It would suit a person with imagination and creativity, possessing management and organisational skills.

ADD particularly welcomes applications from disabled people. The offices are wheelchair accessible. We are striving towards an equal opportunities policy. All applications will be treated on their merits.

**Qualifications:** Ability to produce management accounts, budgeting and forecasts. Experience of computer accounting systems and spreadsheets essential.

For detailed job specification and further information, please telephone: Christine Maynard - PA to the Director. Frome (0373) 73064 or write to: ADD, 23 Lower Keyford, Frome, Somerset, BA11 4AP.



### THE LONDON BUBBLE seeks an

#### ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR: PROJECTS

who participates in the planning of all Bubble activities at management level. S/he then leads and develops the Company's programme of Community Arts work.

**Salary: £11,492 per annum**

Send a large A4 SAE for further details to: **Karla Barnacle, The London Bubble, 5 Elephant Lane, London SE16 4JD.**

Deadline for completed applications: 6th November, 1989.

*The London Bubble is aiming to be an equal opportunities employer and we welcome applications from the black and ethnic minorities and people with disabilities, who are currently under represented in the Company as a whole.*

### Welfare Rights Support Team Salary SO2 range £15,816-£16,665 incl L.W.

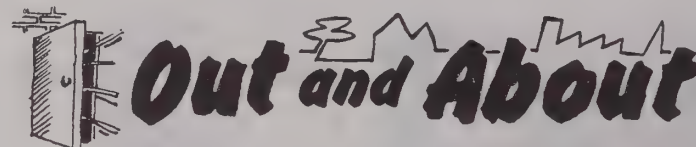
**2 Appeals Worker posts (1 perm, 1 locum for 12 months)** experience of appeal representation required.

**1 Training Worker post (locum 9 months)** experience of training required.

Applicants should also have a good working knowledge of at least 2 benefit areas.

For further information and application form, contact: **LASA, WRST, 3rd Floor West, Universal House, 88-94 Wentworth St., London E1 7SA. Tel: 01-247 0455.**

Closing date: 24th November 1989.



**Out and About** voluntary organisation requires a **Co-ordinator (35 hrs per week)** to maintain and develop our Resource Centre/Information and Advice Service for people with disabilities, their carers, voluntary and statutory agencies in Tower Hamlets.

We are based at a local community centre in Tower Hamlets. Applicants should be capable of working with a range of agencies and volunteers and should have a sound knowledge of disability issues, rights and benefits etc. and be able to organise their own workload and meet deadlines.

Although no formal qualifications are required, direct experience in the field of disability is essential.

**Out and About** is a group for people with disabilities, run and managed by people with disabilities. We are aiming to be an equal opportunities employer, and, as such, recognizes the need for this post to be filled by a person with a disability.

**Starting salary scale 6 spinal point 26. (£12,327 incl.) Pay award pending.**

Closing date for applicants: **Thursday 23rd November, 1989. Interviews will take place starting Thursday 30th November, 1989.**

Full details and application form from: **Out and About, Neighbourhood Church, Bruce Road, Bow, London E3 3HN. Tel: 01-980 3056.**

### Leisure and Recreation

#### DISABILITIES SERVICE CO-ORDINATOR SO2. £15,816-£16,665 pa inc.

Our leisure and Recreation Department provides a wide range of facilities and services in the area of Sports, Leisure Pools, Play, Arts and Entertainment, Parks, Libraries and Community based projects.

We are committed to promoting Equal Opportunities in the provision of services and the recruitment and development of staff.

The Disabilities Co-ordinator will be part of our central policy and co-ordination team, based at 181 King Street, Hammersmith, co-ordinating and directing the Department's work to improve leisure and employment opportunities for people with disabilities.

You will have personal experience of disability and be able to recognise and represent the interests of people with disabilities at both Department and Council level and challenge existing discrimination against people with disabilities.

We offer 22 days annual leave (25 with 5 years local government service), flexible working arrangements and opportunities for training and career development.

Ref: RHQOOOO 035.

Closing date: 17th November, 1989.

#### HOW TO APPLY

For further details and/or an application form please contact, quoting appropriate reference no.

**01-741 0904 (24 hour answering service) or write to Recruitment Section, Personnel Services Department, Town Hall Extension, King Street, W6 9JU.**

*We welcome applications whatever your gender, race, colour, ethnic origin, nationality, religious beliefs or practices, age (up to 65 years), or trade union activities and from people with disabilities, lesbians and gay men.*

**JOB SHARERS WELCOME.**

*We particularly welcome applications from people with disabilities as they are currently under-represented in this organisation.*

**Hammersmith & Fulham** *Serving our Community*



## FOR SALE

**MOBILITY FLAT** for physically disabled woman. Ground floor, one bedroom. Low level surfaces. Available December. Tel: (0742) 756471 or (0742) 558112. Sheffield Womens Own Housing Co-op.

**2 BED GROUND FLOOR FLAT** with tracking hoist for rent, suitable for disabled person/people. Some care on call with intercom system. For further information call (0623) 511549.

**ORTO KINETIC WHEELCHAIR** for cerebral palsy child, in tan stain resistant leather. With headrest, side supports, arm rests, footbox, pummell, harness and bag. Fully adjustable from sitting to lying. Cost £1,000 new, in excellent condition. Will deliver up to 200 miles. £400 ono. Tel Wootton (04698) 8193.

**DETACHED BUNGALOW**, L-shaped lounge/diner, kitchen, bathroom (cast iron bath), 1 bedroom (originally 2, could be reconverted), small garden, detached garage with battery charger, sloping garden paths to front and rear doors. Property adapted for double amputee 6 years ago. Excellent condition. Price in the region of £110,000. Tel: Brentwood (0277) 221091.

**ELECTRIC WHEELCHAIRS**, scooters, battery cars. All makes, models wanted and for sale. Nearly new, hardly used from half price. Demonstrations and collections. Free advice. All areas. Contact Mr Gibbons. Tel: 021-357 4965.

**TWO TRYAD BATHROOM UNITS**, containing shower wash basin and toilet, with light, extractor fan, mirror, storage shelves, taps, curtains and rail and toilet roll holder. Overall height - 2.25m, overall width - 1.100m. £500 each. Contact Ian Millard. Tel: (0724) 844168.

**POT LUCK PEN PALS**. No endless questions or silly forms to fill. What we do not know we can not tell. For details send SAE to Box No A1 Dept D (Juniors under 18 to Box No A101 Dept D), C/O Starlight Room, Chaple Street, Rudington, Notts, NE11 6HE.

## HOLIDAYS

**MAR Y SOL**, Los Cristianos, Tenerife. Apartments and studios for rent or ownership in wheelchair friendly complex. Two lovely pools, one with pool hoist, restaurant/poolside bar. Ring today for cheapest prices on flights and accommodation. Sue Abbott (0753) 685718. 123 Coppermill Road, Wraysbury, Staines, Middx TW19 5NX.

**RED CROSS HOUSE**, Inverness, offers respite/care activity holidays throughout the year to disabled people aged between 16 years and retirement age. A 24 hour care facility is provided by the skilled care staff and voluntary helpers. Accommodation is single hotel-standard bedrooms. Whether your requirements are for outdoor adventure or something a little quieter, why not contact us for details of what we have to offer. For further information please contact Mike Webster on Inverness (0463) 234939.

**NORTH DEVON** - Self-catering cottages sleeping 4/6 (2 specially designed for wheelchairs). Fully equipped and heated - linen provided. Peaceful country setting for touring Exmoor, Dartmoor and Devon Coast. Brochure from South Coombe Farm, Witheridge, Tiverton, Devon EX16 8QL, tel: (0884) 860302.

**SUNNY TENERIFE**, Los Cristianos. As featured on TV and radio, the beautiful "Mar y Sol" Health and Fitness Resort. Purpose built, totally wheelchair-accessible. Swimming pools, saunas, gymnasium, physiotherapy. Apartments for rent or ownership. I can arrange your flights too! "Brilliant...Amazing!" says BBC TV's The Travel Show. Come, see for yourself! Specially adapted taxi service from Tenerife airport. Video (£15 refundable deposit) brochure: Lynne James, 7 Overpool Road, Ellesmere Port L66 1JW, tel: 051-339 5316.

**WINGED FELLOWSHIP HOLIDAYS**. Have you tried a Winged Fellowship Holiday in Britain or Overseas? Great fun and full care provided. Write for free colour brochure. Winged Fellowship, Angel House, 20/32 Pentonville Road, London N1 9XD, tel: 01-833 2594.



# Help us tame the Poll Tax Dragon.

## Valuation & Appeals Officers

£13,251 - £14,046 pa inc (Grade Sc6)

To deal with the preparation, processing and maintenance of Poll Tax appeals and National Non-Domestic valuation and appeals functions, including preparation of tribunal lists, hearing papers and decisions etc., relating to appeals. To provide relevant statistics and information relating to the upkeep of Income Division files. Applicants must have good communication skills coupled with administrative experience gained in an income collection capacity and experience of working with computerised systems. You must also be committed to Equal Opportunities. Ref: F60.

## National Non-Domestic Rate Officers

£13,251 - £14,046 pa inc (Grade Sc6)

To prepare, process and maintain the commercial rates and to be actively involved in the complete levy, collection and recovery functions of uniform non-domestic rates. You will also be required to represent the Council at court when required. Again a strong commitment to the implementation of the Council's Equal Opportunity policy is essential. Good communication skills and administrative experience in an income collection area and experience of computerised systems is also essential. Ref: F61

It may be necessary for persons appointed to these posts to undertake the other duties connected to the current rating system and the implementation of Poll Tax prior to April 1990.

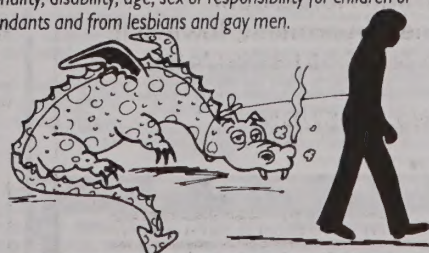
All the above posts are open to job sharing and applicants should note that it is the Council's responsibility to recruit the other job sharer.

People with disabilities are particularly welcomed and should be aware that the building is accessible for people with mobility problems and that the Council will provide any aids or adaptations required so that disability itself is not a barrier to employment.

The Council has many other attractive conditions of service such as flexible working hours, generous maternity/paternity scheme, relocation assistance up to £6,000 in approved cases, assisted travel scheme, subsidised restaurant facilities, car leasing etc.

Information packs and application forms for any of the above posts are available from the Personnel Section, Directorate of Finance, London Borough of Lambeth, Olive Morris House, 18 Brixton Hill, London SW2. Tel: 01-274 9913 (Ansaphone after 5pm). Closing date: 3rd November, 1989.

As part of the Council's equal opportunity employment policy applications are invited from people regardless of race, creed, nationality, disability, age, sex or responsibility for children or dependants and from lesbians and gay men.



**LAMBETH**  
SERVICES WELL WORTH DEFENDING

It is in inner city areas like Lambeth that the harsher realities of the Poll Tax will hit hardest.

In implementing the Government's legislation, this Council is committed to doing everything possible to minimise the extra burden being placed on our multi-racial community - advising on the implications for local people and business, promoting awareness of rebates and benefits and encouraging their take up, and dealing sensitively and efficiently with enquiries, valuations, collections and appeals.

Each of these posts will play a key part in the Council's approach:

## Local Income Group Managers

£21,126 - £22,626 pa inc (Grade PO5)

Although we have made many appointments to the above posts we still need to recruit three more people to complete the team in our Local Income Section. You must have experience of managing a group of people and have experience in one of the following work areas: collection or recovery of income or assessments of benefits. Experience of computer based systems and new technology developments, knowledge of the data protection act and ability to represent the Council in court relating to the recovery of Poll Tax and General Rate is essential. The ability to work in a constantly changing legislative environment is also essential. In addition to these skills you must be fully committed to implementing the Council's Equal Opportunity Policy and be able to combat discrimination through effective policy, working practices and service delivery. Ref: F75.

## Local Income Assistant Group Managers

£18,327 - £19,809 pa inc (Grade PO3)

The above posts are required to complete the structure for the Local Income Section. Successful applicants must have experience of supervising and managing staff in a multi-racial environment and have experience of working with on-line computer systems. You may be required to represent the Council in court relating to the recovery of Poll Tax and General Rate with reports, and have experience in one of the following areas: collecting income, recovery of income or benefits.

These skills must be coupled with a willingness and ability to combat and challenge discrimination and take a proactive role in the promotion of the Council's Equal Opportunity and anti-racist/anti-sexist policy through effective management. Ref: F82

## Reception Manager

£16,242 - £17,394 pa inc (Grade PO1)

Responsible for providing helpful and efficient reception service to people seeking information and assistance on all aspects of Poll Tax, rebates and benefits applying to individual circumstances. Applicants must have effective management skills and have previous experience of providing help/advice/assistance to members of the public in a multi-racial environment. You must also have the ability to actively implement the Council's Equal Opportunity Policy through effective service delivery ensuring individual needs are met. Ref: F59.

## Local Income Officers

£13,251 - £15,408 pa inc (Grade Sc6/SO1)

To deal with the day-to-day preparation, processing and maintenance of the benefits, levy, collection and recovery functions in relation to the collection of Poll Tax on 1st April 1990. Initial duties will, however, involve various functions relating to the transfer of the present Rating Systems, including work on backups to new systems and may involve other implemented duties. You must have experience of collecting income or benefit calculation, coupled with an understanding of the collection of Poll Tax and the ability to work with minimum supervision. You must also have experience of working and dealing with people in a multi-racial environment and have the commitment to and knowledge of how to combat racial, sexual and disability related discrimination. As more than 100 staff are required at this level, the closing date for these particular posts has been extended to 17th November 1989. Ref: F80.

## Control & Development Officers

£13,251 - £14,046 pa inc (Grade Sc6)

To assist with the design, development and implementation of administration, management and financial operating procedures for Poll Tax and other Income Systems. You must have accounting and administrative experience involving design and implementation of new systems. Applicants must also have commitment to implementing Equal Opportunities. Ref: F81.



## LAW & ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT

### Women's Unit

## Women's Officer (Community Care)

£18,327 - £19,809 pa inc

(Temporary to 15th April 1990 Maternity Leave Cover)

You will advise, monitor and review the provision and delivery of Council Services to women. You must demonstrate relevant skills and experience in developing policy and practice in relation to Community Care, particularly on issues for women with disabilities, Black and Ethnic Minority women and older women.

The ability to establish effective working relationships with the Social Services Department and the Voluntary Sector, to promote positive anti-discriminatory policies is essential, as is a commitment to challenge all forms of inequality.

You will be responsible for supporting a group of Black and Ethnic Minority people with disabilities and to undertake a project researching the language provision need of women in Community Care Services whose first language is not English.

Previous applicants are invited to reapply.

**Application form from and to be returned to Law & Administration Departmental Personnel Unit, Room 220, Town Hall, Euston Road, London NW1 2RU. Tel: 01-860 5653 (ansaphone). Quoting Ref: 1A/89/DN.**  
Closing date 10th November 1989.



equal opportunity employer

Applicants are considered on the basis of their suitability for the post, with equal opportunities for women, black/ethnic minorities, lesbians and gay men and people with disabilities, and regardless of marital status, age, creed/religion and unrelated criminal conviction. All posts are open for job-sharing.

## WANTED

TYPEWRITER, manual or electric, urgently required for disabled student to assist with studies. Greenford, Middx area. Tel 01-575 6352.

## WHAT'S ON

WAKE UP to New Generation Wheelchairs. December 8 1989, 9.30am - 4pm. Venue: Conference Centre, Lodge Moor Hospital, Sheffield. Fee: £30 (inc lunch, tea and coffee). A one-day course designed as an introduction to New Generation Wheelchairs, their uses and selection. For further details contact: Mrs Price, South 2 Lodge Moor Hospital, Redmires Road, Sheffield S10 4LH.

## FIND-A-FRIEND

GENTLEMAN 45, 5 ft 10in. Slim, single, solvent, recently separated from disabled girlfriend would like to find replacement, preferably in S. Wales area. Box No 246.

WIDOWER 60, Ruislip/Middlesex. Educated, Asian/English parentage, non-smoker. Slightly handicapped, fully mobile on feet. Interests: country driving, home DIY, wildlife. Seeks marriage-minded lady friend, same age. Local/London please. Box No 255.

RETIRED GENTLEMAN amputee (above/knee), own house, own car interested in visiting places of interest, museums etc. Would like to correspond with lady with similar disability. Box No 238.

CHRISTIAN WIDOWER, early 70's, physically disabled (but not wheelchair), car driver, lives NE Surrey, would like to contact sincere lady for companionship, fellowship, possible outings and/or correspondence. Only genuine replies please. Box No 239.

To reply to Find-a-Friend indicate the Box Number and mark the envelope Private & Confidential. If you do not it will be opened. Send to DN, address on page 24.

## FEEDING or SALIVA PROBLEMS?

BIBS, SCARVES & CRAVATS, in WATERPROOF LINED COTTON (from £3.50)  
Can be attached to Sweatshirts (from £9 each)

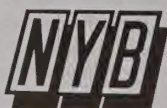
Order Now for Christmas!

Send 30p & SAE for samples and details to:  
B.F.S., Canalside Workshops, Leverton Road, Retford, Notts DN22 0DR. Tel: 0777 860206

## BRISTOL AND WESTON HEALTH AUTHORITY INDEPENDENT LIVING FUND PROJECT WORKER

Enthusiastic health or social services professional to assist disabled people, their carers and professionals in understanding the workings of the Independent Living Fund. 6 months full-time contract. The fund was established in April 1988 and is potentially a source of finance to help foster independent living in the Community. The post-holder will become familiar with the fund, educate professionals about its use and enable disabled people to take advantage of purchasing their own care. Applications from disabled people are particularly welcome. Salary, scale 6, £11,962-£13,994. For application form/job description please contact Steve Wilkinson, Co-ordinator, Physical Disability Services, Keynsham Hospital, St Clements Road, Keynsham, Bristol BS18 1AG. Tel: 862664 ext 226/254. Closing date 10/11.

THE HEALTH AUTHORITY HAS A POLICY OF PROMOTING EQUAL OPPORTUNITY AND THEREFORE WELCOMES APPLICATIONS FROM ALL SECTIONS OF THE COMMUNITY.



The National Youth Bureau provides information, curriculum materials, publications and training on issues affecting young people and youth work practice

## FANCY YOURSELF AS A TRAINER?

NYB wishes to appoint a third training organiser to join our Training Services Group. The primary responsibilities include training and consultancy, putting enquirers in touch with trainers, providing training materials and supporting an annual training calendar. The person appointed will preferably have substantial experience of working with, and knowledge of, the Black community, especially Afro-Caribbean/African young women.

Starting salary will be within a range £11,667-£15,081 (review pending).

For further details and application form please contact the Personnel Department, National Youth Bureau, 17-23 Albion Street, Leicester LE1 6GD. Tel: (0533) 471200 ext. 316. Closing date: 17th November 1989.

NYB is an equal opportunities employer. People from Black and ethnic minority communities and people with disabilities are under-represented within NYB and their applications are particularly welcome. All posts are open to job-share unless otherwise stated.

## FINANCE

## Accountancy Assistant

£9,162 - £9,591 p.a.

An internal promotion has created a vacancy in a friendly and lively team within the Accountancy Section which deals with the Council's income.

No previous experience or specific technical skills are required but candidates should be numerate and interested in using computer facilities for data input and interrogation for which necessary training will be given.

The post could suit career break or mature applicants but all applications will be considered equally against a person specification which will be sent out with the application form.

Application forms from: **Director of Finance, Town Hall, London SW18 2PU. Tel: 01-871 7592 quoting ref: D0243.**

Closing date 17th November 1989.

## Wandsworth an equal opportunity employer

All applicants are considered on the basis of their suitability for the job irrespective of disablement, race, sex or marital status.



## DIRECTORATE OF SOCIAL SERVICES CO-ORDINATOR OF SERVICES (ADAPTATIONS)

### Disabled Living Centre

Salary: Scale 6 £11,667 - £12,462 per annum

An opportunity has arisen to join a committed and enthusiastic team of staff working for the Disabled Living Centre which serves all the Kirklees area. The Centre was opened over three years ago and plays a central role in the provision of equipment, adaptations and Orange Badge/Concessionary Travel Permits, as well as a visual display of equipment on permanent view.

As a member of the management team, you will be responsible for effective and efficient processing of adaptations to property in both private sector and local authority housing. In the absence of the Centre Manager, the Co-ordinator is responsible for the efficient running of the unit.

You will have commitment, energy, the ability to communicate at all levels of the organisation, experience of working within budgetary constraints and working with computers desirable.

Personal or practical experience of disability would be an asset.

Kirklees is a multi-racial area and we are anxious to ensure that this is reflected in our workforce. Applications from Afro-Caribbean, Asian and other ethnic minority groups are encouraged.

**For application form and job description please apply to the Director of Social Services, Oldgate House, 2 Oldgate, Huddersfield to whom completed forms should be returned by 17 November 1989.**

KIRKLEES - STRIVING TO ACHIEVE EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES. APPLICATIONS FROM JOB SHARERS WELCOME.



Hackney Council employs a vast range of people with a variety of skills. And we need additional staff in all areas of the organisation so that we can continue to improve the services we provide for local people. We have regular vacancies for staff in each department, from Social Services to Finance, and work opportunities range from managerial and technical staff to administrators clerical workers and qualified professionals. If you are interested in finding out more about a career with one of the most innovative Local Councils in the capital, complete the coupon and we will send you a copy of our weekly vacancy bulletin which contains details of all jobs available and how to apply.

Hackney is serious about Equal Opportunities. All applications for jobs are considered on merit, with equal opportunities for women, black and ethnic minorities, lesbians and gay men and people with disabilities. Job share applications are welcomed with or without a partner.

Drop into our job shop at the Town Hall and look around or return the coupon, to: The Recruitment Office, Town Hall, More Street, London E8 1EA or telephone 01-986 3123 ext. 3211 or 3215 (24 hour answering service).

Please send me your weekly vacancy bulletin

DN11

Name

Address



**HACKNEY COUNCIL**  
Working for local people



## TO ADVERTISE IN DISABILITY NOW CLASSIFIED

Please contact the Advertisement Manager,  
Jonathan Wine, Kingslea Press Limited,  
12 Dock Offices, Lower Road, London SE16 2XL.  
Telephone: 01-252 1362. Fax: 01-237 8019.

# GLAD

London. GLAD has recently approved a major programme of reform to increase representation and accountability of people with disabilities at all levels of our organization. The postholder will have a key role in implementing this change.

### HEAD OF EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

We are looking for a disabled person to join GLAD's management team to:  
★promote equal opportunities policies in all aspects of GLAD's work;  
★develop models of good practice; ★act as a consultant to GLAD's members and outside agencies; ★manage a small team; ★organise GLAD's disability awareness training programme.

The successful candidate will have: ★*excellent knowledge and awareness of equal opportunities issues and practices*; ★*thorough understanding of current issues in the disability field*; ★*knowledge of voluntary and statutory structures and provisions for disabled people in London*; ★*experience of living and/or working in a multi-cultural environment*; ★*an awareness of the problems facing racial and cultural minorities*; ★*excellent inter-personal and communication skills*; ★*some experience of managing people*.  
Salary: NJC Scale PO1 £16,242-£17,394 p.a. (inc. London weighting).

Closing date for applications: 17th November 1989. Further details and application form (available on tape and floppy disk) from: **Greater London Association for Disabled People, 336 Brixton Road, London SW9 7AA. Tel: 01-274 0107.**

*We are working towards becoming an equal opportunities employer and we particularly wish to encourage applications from people from black and ethnic minority groups. GLAD considers that the knowledge required for the performance of the duties of this post can only be attained by a person with direct personal experience of disability and therefore only disabled people who meet all the essential requirements will be considered. Our offices are fully accessible and we will make every effort to provide for individual needs.*

Section 38(1)(b) Race Relations Act 1976 applies to this post.

GLAD receives funding from the London Boroughs Grants Scheme.

## THIS JOB IS OPEN TO JOB SHARE

DIRECTORATE OF PERSONNEL AND MANAGEMENT SERVICES

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S OFFICE

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES TEAM

## CLERICAL ASSISTANT (2 POSTS)

£4,308 – £8,787 p.a. Ref. No. AE04 & AE05

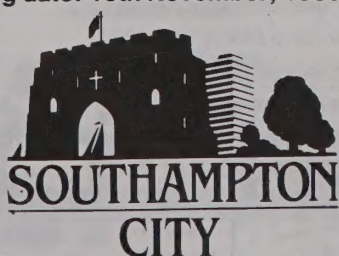
Following the recent formation of an Equal Opportunities Team within the Chief Executive's Office, applications are invited for the above posts.

The postholders will work in a small team providing finance personnel and administrative support to four Equal Opportunity Staff. The staff work on race, disability and women's issues. Principal duties of the posts include setting up and maintaining information systems; carrying out basic research; dealing with routine correspondence, maintaining financial records and some typing. The postholders will be expected to work on their own initiative with minimum supervision. Training will be given where appropriate.

Applications are particularly welcome from job sharers, black/ethnic minorities, disabled people and women.

**Application forms and job descriptions available from the Director of Personnel and Management Services, Civic Centre, Southampton. SO9 4ZF. Telephone Southampton (0703) 832832.**

**Closing date: 15th November, 1989.**



Your application will be judged solely on its merits irrespective of race, marital status, sex, sexual orientation, age, religion or disability.

**An equal opportunity employer**



# LEEDS CITY COUNCIL

## DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

# EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES POSTS

The following posts were advertised in May in the national, educational and ethnic press. A large number of applications were received including a significant proportion from women and members of the ethnic minority communities. However, the City Council in re-advertising these posts is seeking to attract applicants from an even wider cross section of the population, particularly those from disadvantaged groups. The wording of the advertisement has to some extent been changed, to take account of criticisms that the previous advertisement was too restrictive.

Previous applicants should not re-apply. Applicants from the previous advertisement will be considered on equal terms to those received from this advertisement.

Leeds City Council is committed to the effective implementation of its Equal Opportunities Policy. These posts represent a major initiative by the Education Department to improve the quality of service generally and to disadvantaged groups in particular.

14 specialist equal opportunity posts have been established. 7 posts within a central unit exercising responsibility for co-ordinating all equal opportunities development, policy implementation, advice and development, monitoring and evaluation, progress chasing and community liaison, and 7 posts, within the advisory service to facilitate educational development particularly with regard to curriculum content and delivery, teaching styles and school/college organisation.

Applicants for all the posts listed below should have commitment to, experience of, and expertise in planning, developing and implementing strategies which promote equal educational opportunities for all. Applicants should have experience of working with members of the ethnic minority communities (including black parents), women and people with disabilities, and have an understanding of racism and sexism in all its forms. All posts are available for JOB SHARE.

### POLICY AND CO-ORDINATION DIVISION

## SENIOR EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES OFFICER

(Ref EQ/1) Grade: PO4 £18,225-£19,632

To exercise day to day management of the Equal Opportunities Section which has responsibility for co-ordinating the implementation of the City Council equal educational opportunities policies in relation to race, gender and disabilities. The post involves establishing and developing effective monitoring and evaluation systems for strategies within the service. The person appointed will also advise Elected Members and Senior Officers, work closely with the Advisers, co-ordinate liaison between the Department and other Council Departments and the community, and provide input into in-service training courses.

## EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES OFFICERS (4 posts)

Grade: PO3 £16,743-£18,225

To co-ordinate the implementation of the equal opportunities policy in relation to one of the following areas:

- 1 GENDER (1 post) (Ref EQ/2)
- 2 RACE (2 posts) (Ref EQ/3)
- 3 DISABILITIES (1 post) (Ref EQ/4)

Duties will include the establishment, maintenance, and development of effective systems of monitoring and evaluation; in-service training input, liaison with Elected Members, Advisers, Senior Officers, other Council Departments and community groups.

## SENIOR ASSISTANT (2 posts)

Grade: SO2 £14,232-£15,081 (Ref EQ/5)

To provide professional support to the Senior Equal Opportunities Officer and the Equal Opportunities Officers. Specific duties will include: to research and produce reports; to ensure full documentation of projects; supervision of administrative and clerical staff involved with equal opportunities support work; and assisting in co-ordinating and implementing aspects of equal opportunities policy as and when required.

### PRIMARY EDUCATION DIVISION

## PRIMARY ADVISERS EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES (2 posts)

Salary Scale – Soulbury, points 13-16, £21,873-£23,454

Both postholders will exercise a leadership role across the Authority in one of the specialist areas of equal opportunity. In addition they may carry a general responsibility for monitoring, support and development in a group of primary schools.

- 1 PRIMARY ADVISERS, EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES (GENDER) (Ref EQ/6)

The person appointed to this post will be expected to build on initiatives evident within the primary phase and to help schools plan and provide for equality of opportunity for girls and boys.

Applicants for this post should have had substantial teaching experience in the primary education phase.

- 2 PRIMARY ADVISER, EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES (RACE) (Ref. EQ/7)

The person appointed to this post will be expected to take a lead in the promotion of equality of opportunity for ethnic minorities and in the implementation of the City Council's multi-cultural and anti-racist policies in primary schools.

Applicants for this post should have had substantial teaching experience in the primary education phase and a working knowledge of the Afro-Caribbean and Asian Communities.

Leeds has a large number of people from Afro Caribbean and Asian communities. The City Council is developing an education service to fully meet the needs of these communities. It is therefore seeking to appoint staff with links and a working knowledge of the Afro Caribbean and Asian communities. Ethnic minorities, women and people with disabilities are under-represented in the Leeds Education Service, and applications from these groups are positively encouraged.

**For application forms and further particulars, please write to the Department of Education, Personnel Division, Selectapost 13, Merion House, 110 Merion Centre, Leeds LS2 8DT – Telephone No. 462950/463808, (Mr G O'Brien Mr P Seddon) stating which post you are applying for. Please quote the reference given above.**

The closing date for applications is 15th November 1989.

**LEEDS IS STRIVING TO BE AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER**

### SECONDARY EDUCATION DIVISION

## SECONDARY ADVISERS EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES (2 posts)

Salary Scale – Soulbury, points 13-16, £21,873-£23,454

Both postholders will exercise a leadership role across the Authority in one of the specialist areas of equal opportunity. In addition they may carry a general responsibility for monitoring, support and development in a group of secondary schools.

- 1 SECONDARY ADVISER, EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES (GENDER) (Ref EQ/8)

The person appointed to this post will help schools plan for equality of opportunity for boys and girls, provide training opportunities and disseminate good practice in the field of equal opportunities, as well as taking part in the advisory, inspectorial and monitoring functions of the Secondary Advisory team, of which (s)he will be a member. Applicants should have had substantial teaching experience in the secondary education phase.

- 2 SECONDARY ADVISER, EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES (RACE) (Ref EQ/9)

The person appointed to this post will take a lead in the promotion of equality of opportunity for ethnic minorities and in the implementation of the City Council's multi-cultural and anti-racist policies, as well as taking part in the advisory, inspectorial and monitoring functions of the Secondary Advisory team, of which (s)he will be a member. Applicants should have had substantial teaching experience in the second education phase and a working knowledge of the Afro-Caribbean and Asian Communities.

### TERTIARY EDUCATION DIVISION

## SENIOR TERTIARY EDUCATION OFFICER – EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES (RACE) (Ref EQ/10)

Soulbury Scale – Points 13-16, £21,873-£23,454

The person appointed to this post will take a lead in the promotion of equality of opportunities for ethnic minorities and in the implementation of multi-cultural and anti-racist policies, within the Authority's further education service.

Applications for this post should have had substantial experience in the further and continuing education phase and a working knowledge of the Afro-Caribbean and Asian Communities.

## SENIOR TERTIARY EDUCATION OFFICER – EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES (GENDER) (Ref EQ/11)

Soulbury Scale – Points 13-16, £21,873-£23,454

The person appointed to this post will take a lead in the promotion of equality of opportunities for female and male students, and in the implementation of anti-sexist policies within the further education service.

Applicants should have had substantial experience in the further and continuing education phase.

## SPECIAL SERVICES DIVISION ADVISED FOR SPECIAL NEEDS – EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES (DISABILITY) (Ref EQ/12)

Soulbury Scale – Points 13-16, £21,873-£23,454

The person appointed to this post will take a lead in the promotion of equality of opportunity for pupils and students with disabilities.

In addition, the postholder will assume pastoral responsibility for a number of special schools, will advise mainstream schools on the management of special needs and will help develop the Authority's active policy in integrating children into mainstream settings.

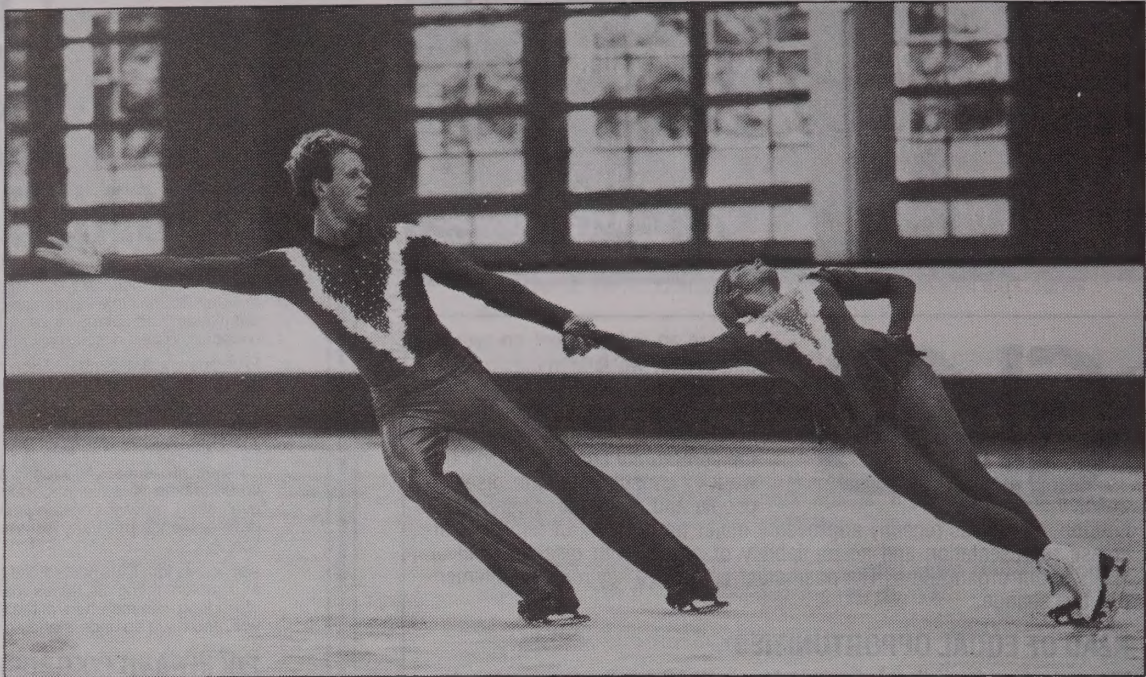
Applicants should have had substantial teaching experience.



Which? hits bad access

The current issue of *Which?* magazine, published by the Consumers Association, reveals the difficulties disabled people face getting into public buildings. A report on access in the October 1989 issue contains five pages of findings from 30 people with mobility and sensory disabilities in Birmingham, Brent, Eastbourne, Exeter, Milton Keynes, St Helens and Sunderland. They tried 293 buildings including banks (varied), pubs (good), libraries (not bad) Citizens Advice Bureaux (bad, but they make home visits) and cinemas (dreadful).

They also asked various companies, such as National Westminster and Whitbreads, for comments. Tesco revealed that they are part of the national "sympathetic hearing scheme." A copy of the report has been forwarded to the Government departments responsible for Building Regulations, with a proposal that regulations should extend to all types of disability and to buildings which have changed use. A *Which?* report on transport for disabled people is planned for 1990. Tel: 01-486 5544.



Michael Aldred and Catherine Barker competing in last month's Skate Electric Ice International in Richmond, London. Michael was born with two club feet, but after four operations he and his partner won the British junior championship last year.

Tourism for all, argues Tourist Board

Many people with disabilities and their carers are among the 40 per cent of Britons who do not take holidays because of mobility problems, lack of access and low income. A new report from the English Tourist Board, published last month, calls on the tourist industry to do much more to meet the holiday needs of disabled and disadvantaged people. *Tourism for All*, produced by a working party led by Mary Baker, chair of the Holiday Care Service, has over 60 recommendations covering building regulations and design, transport and parking, accommodation and information for people with special needs. In particular the report says: ● disabled people should be involved in planning tourism training in colleges ● every company in the tourist trade should make a written statement of its commitment to *Tourism for All* and have a programme for improving accessibility ● tourist boards should be the first port of call for operators wanting advice on the construction or adaptation of accommodation or attractions ● schemes should be developed to grade and promote tourist facilities, together with tougher building regulations. Merle Davies, information and research assistant at The Spastics Society and a member of the working party, said: "We are linking the report in with European Tourism Year 1990 and hope that the British industry will wake up and take notice of our recommendations. "Even if the building isn't perfect, if the attitude of the staff is right, people with special needs will have an enjoyable holiday." The report says that catering for disabled people's needs makes good business sense. "If you turn away one person who is disabled, you are often turning away their family, friends and colleagues as well." The report suggests that companies running tourist attractions should consider admitting carers free and relating prices to value for money. If an attraction is only partially accessible, then a reduced price could be charged. "Travel and leisure play an increasingly important part in the life of the late 20th century," says the report. "Inability to participate is an isolating factor and can also undermine health."

*Tourism for All*, Dept D, ETB, Brommells Road, Clapham Common, London SW4 0BJ, £5.

Disability Now

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